6 die in US Greyhound bus attack

Story Below, Col. 1

Kidnappers kill Uratex owners' sis

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE BODIES of a Chinese-Filipino businesswoman and her police bodyguard who were kidnapped Monday were found yesterday morning in Valenzuela City, according to Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, chief of the Northern Police District.

Connie Wong, her bodyguard PO1 Dionisio

KIDNAPPERS/ A14

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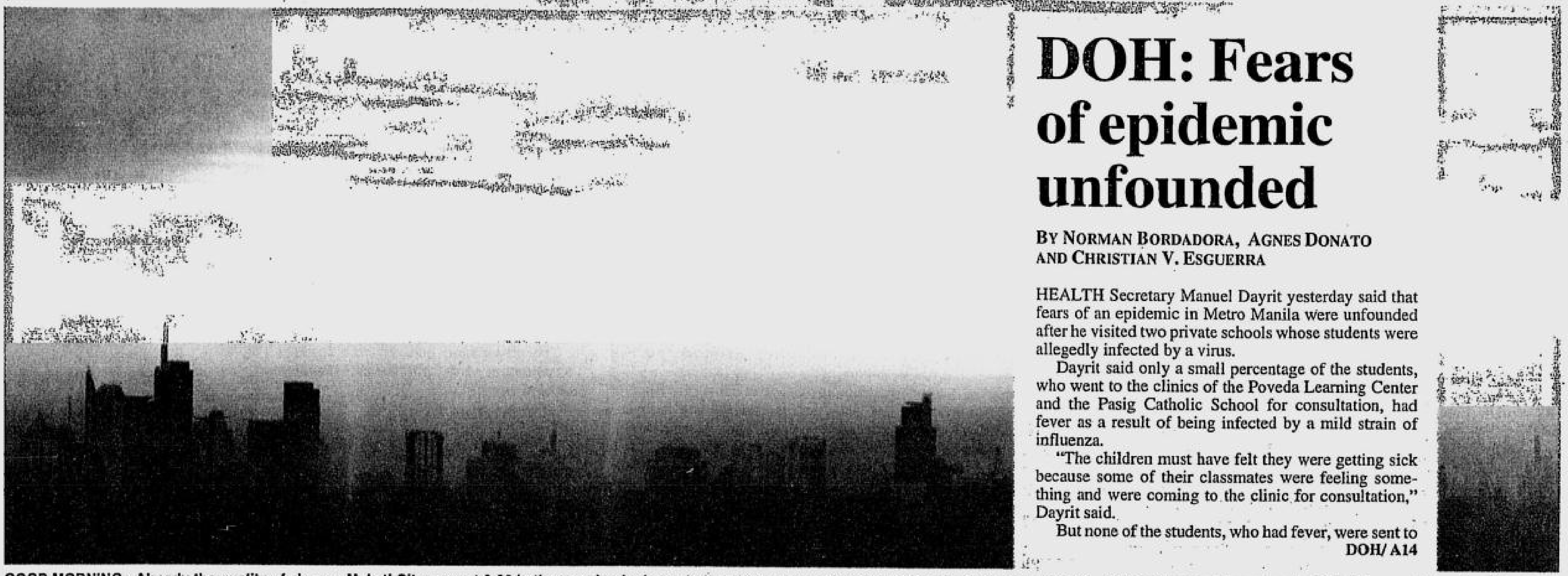
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2001 ★★ 44 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 298 ₱15

2 more Chinoys held by kidnappers

By Gia Damaso Dumo
and Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Police here confirmed that there had been two separate kidnap-for-ransom cases last week in the Ilocos region involving members of the Chinese-Filipino business community.

2 MORE/ A14



GOOD MORNING: Already the quality of air over Makati City even at 6:30 in the morning is deep, dark and menacing against the clean blue sky of a new day. But environment department officials have ruled out pollutants as the cause of an outbreak of the flu in many Metro Manila schools.

EDWIN BACASMAS

DOH: Fears of epidemic unfounded

By Norman Bordadora, Agnes Donato
and Christian V. Esguerra

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday said that fears of an epidemic in Metro Manila were unfounded after he visited two private schools whose students were allegedly infected by a virus.

Dayrit said only a small percentage of the students, who went to the clinics of the Poveda Learning Center and the Pasig Catholic School for consultation, had fever as a result of being infected by a mild strain of influenza.

"The children must have felt they were getting sick because some of their classmates were feeling something and were coming to the clinic for consultation," Dayrit said.

But none of the students, who had fever, were sent to

DOH/ A14

Mike A again in hot water

SEN. PANFILO LACSON: Macapagal administration is "powerfully corrupt." VAL HANDUMON

First Gentleman made PCSO a 'cash cow,' Lacson charges

By Christine Avendaño and Martin P. Marfil

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of "more than sharing power" with President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose 8-month-old administration he described as "powerfully corrupt."

Lacson accused Arroyo of heading a "Department of the Underground," which, he said, was the "new dangerous office in government" responsible for "assigning cronies to positions of power and making money out of them," among others.

Arroyo immediately denied Lacson's allegations, and said these were being raised as a means to draw public attention away from the senator.

His spokesperson Patricia Bunye said he had "lain low" in strict adherence to Administrative Order No. 1 which prohibits members of the First Family from participating in government affairs.

In a privilege speech titled "Gloria's Underground Department," Lacson said "the Department of the Underground has no parallels in history."

"Its secretary does not only share the President's bed," Lacson said. "He more than shares her power of government."

Much of the points raised by

MIKE/ A13

Joker is mad: 'I wasn't born yesterday'

By Christine Avendaño
and Armand Nocum

SEN. Joker Arroyo is in fighting form.

"You want a fight, I will (give you a fight). I wasn't born yesterday," he said in challenging the Senate minority coalition to go ahead and give him its best shot.

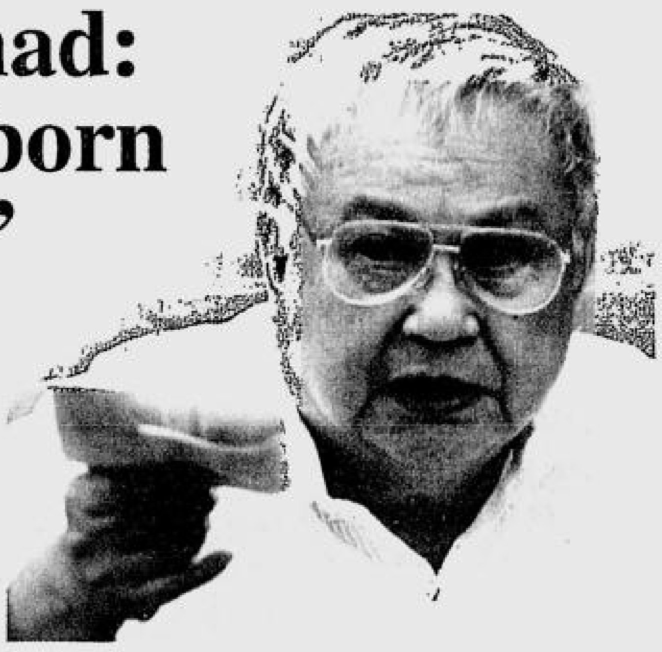
Although Sen. Panfilo Lacson did not name him in a privilege speech delivered yesterday as one of the four senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition who supposedly benefited from the alleged misuse of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds, Arroyo accused the minority coalition of being behind the controversy.

Arroyo took the floor after Lacson delivered his speech wherein he accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of using P250 million from the PCSO to finance the media campaign of the four candidates.

He said he would not have given importance to Lacson's speech because that was the First Gentleman's problem. What he minded, he said, was the inclusion of his nephew Jack Arroyo and Manny Estrella as among those allegedly assisting the First Gentleman in the supposed "Department of the Underground."

Arroyo said it was impossible for Estrella, president of Petron Corp. during the Aquino administration, to be part of the group because throughout the senatorial campaign the latter was in the United States with his cancer-

JOKER/ A13



SEN. JOKER ARROYO: Opposition "dirty tricks" in cahoots with "auction journalism."

Lacson-Perez showdown looms

By Armand N. Nocum, Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
and Carla P. Gomez

A CONFRONTATION between Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez looms as the Senate starts its investigation of Lacson's alleged multimillion-dollar deposits abroad on Monday.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, said they had invited Perez to be their first witness.

"By then, we expect him (Perez) to make good his promise to present documents from his counterparts, showing the dollar deposits of Senator Lacson abroad," Barbers told Senate reporters.

Perez has accused Lacson of keeping multimillion-dollar accounts in abroad.

His accusation stemmed from the allegation of Col. Victor Corpus, military intelligence chief, that Lacson was keeping $211 million in bank accounts in Hong Kong, Canada and the United States.

Corpus had earlier said that the money came from illegal activities like drug trafficking, kidnap for ransom and smuggling.

LACSON/ A13

'Clear and compelling' evidence

Taliban: 'We prefer negotiations to war'

WAR without borders

WASHINGTON—The United States kept Afghanistan's Taliban rulers guessing on Wednesday as to when or where it might strike over their refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden, drawing a fresh Taliban appeal for evidence against him.

But while US President George W. Bush fed such evidence to his Nato allies and sent Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to the Middle East for talks with leaders there, he rebuffed repeated Taliban calls for similar treatment.

"We prefer the negotiations than the war," the Taliban ambassador to Pakistan told CNN in an interview, after Britain said that time had run out and warned that the Taliban could be swept from power for refusing to hand over Bin Laden.

Nato, after hearing what its secretary general called a "clear and compelling" case against Bin Laden, invoked a mutual defense clause for the first time in its 52-year history, giving the United States the green light to move against Bin Laden and the Taliban.

Bin Laden, who has lived in Afghanistan for five years, is suspected of masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks in which hijackers slammed airliners into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon near Washington.

Taliban Ambassador Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef condemned the attacks, which killed more than 5,700 people.

"This action is terrorist action. We know this was not Islamic and a very, very dangerous action and we condemn that," he said in an appearance on CNN's "Larry King Live."

"Handover is the other option, is the other action. We want that, if Osama bin

CLEAR/ A14

6 die in Greyhound bus attack

MANCHESTER, Tennessee—A passenger of a Greyhound bus slit the throat of the driver causing the bus to crash yesterday. Six of the 38 people aboard were killed; 32 were injured. Greyhound halted all its bus service nationwide as a precaution, authorities said.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has been conducting the biggest probe in US history after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, were at the crash site on a highway near Manchester, 80 kms southeast of Nashville.

US Justice Department spokeswoman Susan Dryden said it's too early to tell if the accident was terrorist-related.

The man who caused the crash survived, according to Dryden. He holds a Croatian ID card.

The bus crashed after a passenger slit the driver's throat, a passenger told a Nashville television station.

The extent of the injuries was not immediately determined, Greyhound spokesperson Karen Chapman said.

The bus was en route from Louisville, Kentucky, to Atlanta, Georgia when it crashed at 5:15 a.m. local time (10:15 GMT), Chapman said.

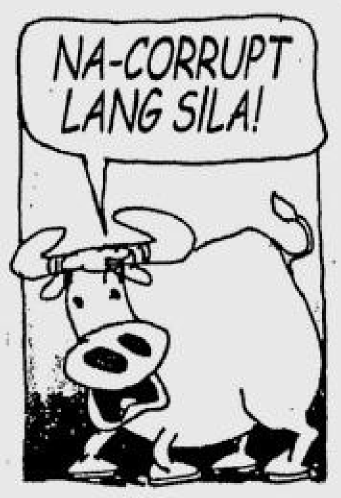
Speaking by cellular phone from the crash site, passenger Carly Rinearson told a Nashville TV station that a man who appeared to be 30 to 35 years old kept approaching her front seat and asking what time it was. She said the man then asked if he could have her seat, and she refused.

Afterward, "he just went up to the bus driver and slit his throat, and the driver turned the wheel and the bus tipped over," Rinearson said.

Dallas-based Greyhound stopped all service as a precautionary measure after the crash, spokesperson Kristin Parsley said. About 1,900 of its 2,300 buses had been on the road when the crash occurred, she said. She said buses already en route were allowed to continue to their destinations.

Chapman said the company halted all its service "to see if the incident would impact the safety of passengers elsewhere."

She did say, however, that nationwide service would not normally be halted after one accident. *AP*


NA-CORRUPT LANG SILA!

DND chief pins blame on pols

By Volt Contreras

PLEASE pass the blame.

This appears to be the response of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to questions at a House hearing yesterday about the Philippine Military Academy

DND/ A13

Second FRONT PAGE

Gloria remains popular–SWS

BY ELINE SANTOS

WHILE President Macapagal-Arroyo's public satisfaction rating has remained steady since April, satisfaction with the Senate and the House fell significantly, according to the latest Social Weather Stations survey.

In its survey of Sept. 1-18, 45 percent of respondents said they were satisfied with the President's performance, barely unchanged from the 46 percent who expressed satisfaction with her in the survey of July 9-27.

Those who said they were dissatisfied with Ms Macapagal's performance numbered 30 percent of respondents, barely up from the 29 percent who expressed dissatisfaction in July.

Ms Macapagal's net public satisfaction rating was placed at plus 15 compared to July's net +16 rating. An increase in her satisfaction rating in Luzon was offset by decreases in the National Capital Region, the Visayas and Mindanao.

On the contrary, the net satisfaction ratings of the Senate and the House fell, from +28 to +4 and from +21 to +4, respectively. This after Congress opened and its two chambers got embroiled in several controversial investigations.

Moderate public satisfaction was expressed for other key officials of the government, however. Vice President Teofisto Guingona got a rating of +8, similar to his figures in July.

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Erap arraignment for perjury canceled

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday failed to arraign former President Joseph Estrada on an illegal use of alias charge, after the court canceled the hearing hours after its scheduled start.

Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division, which is hearing the case, arrived at the anti-graft court premises at 4:30 p.m., or three and a-half-hours after the 1 p.m. scheduled start of the hearing.

Badoy and the two other justices in the division—Teresita Leonarda-de Castro and Ricardo Ilarde—also did not issue a "produce order" to police to take Estrada to court.

Ready to go

Even the prosecution was surprised by the postponement after Badoy had scheduled the hearing himself in open court last Monday during the opening of the plunder case against Estrada.

Deputy State Prosecutor Robert Kallos said they were prepared for the arraignment and pre-trial yesterday.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had even announced in an early radio interview that the arraignment would push through yesterday.

And in marked contrast to Estrada's resistance to attending his plunder trial on Monday, the deposed president was ready to go this time and was only waiting for the "produce order" to be presented by his police escorts, it was reported.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, lead defense lawyer in the plunder case, said Estrada called him up at 11 a.m. yesterday asking about the produce order.

Saguisag said three lawyers were ready to represent Estrada in court—Jose Flaminiano, Delia Hermoso and Felix Carao.

Sandigan clerk of court Lily Biton explained yesterday's postponement by saying the justices still had to decide on Sept. 25 defense motion to quash the illegal use of alias case.

Saguisag questioned the way the court "changed its mind" (about the hearing), with no formal notice to the lawyers.

'Disorderly procedure'

"It just goes to show how disorderly the procedure (of this court) is," Saguisag said.

"There should have been the courtesy of informing us so we would not have come to the hearing today," he said.

He said he would file a manifestation with the Sandiganbayan today "expressing extreme displeasure" over the Third Division's actions.

Unlike trial hearings, the arraignment would not have required much preparation by the lawyers, Saguisag said, apparently to justify the absence of Estrada's lawyers, except for one, at the start of his plunder trial before the Third Division on Monday.

Prosecutor Kallos said the government lawyers want Estrada's arraignment in the illegal use of alias case to be reset before Oct. 17, the next trial date in the plunder case.

The prosecution had moved for the consolidation of the plunder and illegal use of alias cases.

Motion to nullify

Kallos said the prosecution will also file its opposition to Estrada's "motion for vacatur" where he sought to nullify the start of his plunder trial Monday.

Contrary to what Estrada and his lawyers claimed, Kallos said, the ousted leader was being advised by counsel, no less than former chief justice Andres Narvasa, at the time.

Narvasa, a legal adviser of Estrada, was seated beside him during the entire court proceeding Monday.

On Tuesday, Estrada, through his lawyers, filed the motion for vacatur asking the court to declare the trial on Monday a "nullity" because he and his son and co-accused, Jinggoy, were denied their "human and constitutional right to counsel."

Desierto said he will oppose the motion of Estrada's lawyers whom he accused of conniving with each other to boycott last Monday's proceedings in an effort to delay the trial.

'Consensus'

The Ombudsman said a reporter informed him after the hearing that one of Estrada's lawyers was seen on the ground floor of the Sandiganbayan building on Monday, apparently monitoring the goings-on at the trial upstairs.

"There was a consensus among the lawyers (to boycott) the trial and this was (known to) the accused," Desierto said.

He said the defense lawyers had even told reporters about their plan not to show up that day.

That Estrada appeared in court shod in house slippers also showed that he intended to defy the court, Desierto said.

"They (defense) cannot have their way (with) the court. We have to respect judicial processes. They claimed in their motion that they were not consulted on the trial date of Oct. 1 (but) they were consulted as early as Sept. 13," he said.

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RP wants out of 'blacklist'

BY J. JAVELLANA

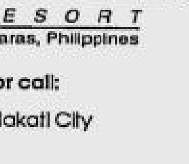
MALACAÑANG is asking the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force to convene a special meeting to strike the Philippines off its list of 15 countries with no money-laundering controls.

This after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act 9160—the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001—on Sept. 29, one day before the FATF-imposed deadline on those countries to pass anti-money laundering measures.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Malacañang is asking for a special meeting because the FATF's next session won't be until February 2002.

Tiglao said Malacañang knows it would be hard for the FATF to convene a special meeting at this time, after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, but Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is conferring with task force officials in Hong Kong and Paris about the Philippine request.

On Tuesday, Malacañang released a statement from the US Treasury Department hailing the passage of RA 9160 as an "important step… with respect to the Philippines' anti-money laundering regime."



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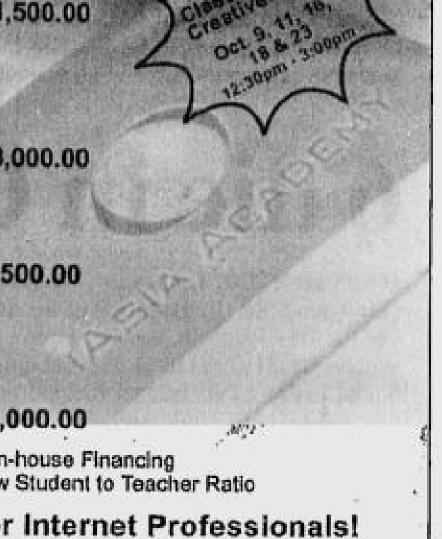
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Evicted as solon, rich lawyer finds new job at Palace

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE WEALTHY lawyer who was once kicked out as a member of Congress for being an American citizen has found a new job in Malacañang—as press undersecretary for broadcast.

But why would Manuel Sanchez, once the richest member of the 9th Congress, want a job that pays only P32,000 a month?

"For public service," Sanchez explained why he took on the post, which is under the Office of the Press Secretary.

When he was Rizal representative beginning 1992, Sanchez earned the distinction of being the richest member of the 250-seat House of Representatives. But a year later, in November 1993, the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal kicked him out of the House for being an American citizen.

Sanchez explained that he regained his Filipino citizenship in July 1995, when he repatriated and took his oath of allegiance to the Philippine flag before then Solicitor General Raul Goco.

Sanchez, who took his oath last Friday before Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, will take the place of Undersecretary Cerge Remonde who resigned the position last month.

As undersecretary for broadcast, Sanchez will manage the government-run Bureau of Broadcast Services and will have "policy supervision" over RTVM, the government television and radio network; and the sequestered TV stations RPN 9 and IBC 13.

But Remonde has not vacated RTVM and had said that he was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as officer-in-charge of the agency.

Sanchez said he visited RTVM on Tuesday because his responsibilities clearly included RTVM. He refused to comment on Remonde's continued occupation of the seat.

He and Remonde are expected to meet today.

But presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said there was nothing irregular about Remonde's holding the post of OIC director of RTVM despite his being head of IBC 13.

Sanchez said he applied for the job and that nobody recommended him.

"I just submitted my resume to the PMS (Presidential Management Staff)," Sanchez said.

He said he wants to "help the government in anyway I can."

Abu bomb plot foiled in Zambo

THREE suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group have been arrested before they could carry out bomb attacks in Zamboanga City, the military reported yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, identified the suspects as brothers Madja and Hamila Hamjam and Hajid Moro, according to the Agence France Presse.

Cimatu said the Hamjams were arrested Monday on a remote island off the Zamboanga peninsula, while Moro was captured the following day.

"They are members of the Abu Sayyaf and we received information they were planning to sow terror by conducting bombing operations in Zamboanga," Cimatu said.

He said the attacks appeared designed to divert military attention away from the nearby island of Basilan, where the rebels are believed to be holding 18 Filipino and American hostages.

Yesterday, a military intelligence officer who asked not to be named, said the American hostages—missionaries Martin Burnham and his wife Gracia—have been sighted in the past three days in Sumisip, Basilan.

The official said a Central Sumisip barangay resident reported to barangay chair Maureen Tahajid that five Abu Sayyaf members with the Burnhams came to her house on Monday.

The resident said the bandits, led by an Amir Mingkong, ordered her to prepare food for the group which remained outside hiding in the bushes.

The woman said Army soldiers passed by on a nearby hill but she could not ask for help because this might have endangered her family.

The woman said that after cooking the food, she and her children were blindfolded by the bandits.

Marines also confirmed reports of another sighting of the American hostages in nearby Barangay Lukbait Tuesday noon.

Yesterday, the hostages were again reportedly spotted in Lower Sumisip, some three kilometers west of Lukbait.

The Abu Sayyaf is one of the groups linked to Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11 that killed over 5,000 people. *Charlie M. Saceda, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with an AFP report*

Justice asked to inhibit self from coco levy cases

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government has sought the inhibition of Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago in the coconut levy cases pending before the Supreme Court because of her relatives' association with former Marcos crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

In its motion for voluntary inhibition, the PCGG noted that Santiago is a sister of former Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares, who is an active member of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

The NPC-LAMMP is a political party heavily supported by the Cojuangco, a major defendant in various civil cases filed by the government against the Marcos estate and their cronies.

Ynares' wife, incumbent Rizal Gov. Rebecca Alcantara-Ynares also ran under the party and was an appointee of deposed President Joseph Estrada to the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

"Given the close personal and political association of her brother and sister-in-law with Mr. Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. in the context of public interest, it would be most appropriate, with due respect if the Honorable Justice inhibits herself from participation in the case," read the motion, which was filed through the Office of the Solicitor General.

The PCGG further said the government could not allow "even the slightest doubt and suspicion" on the personality of the court handling the coco levy cases.

Cojuangco was among those who allegedly misused and spent for private gain the coconut levy funds collected from the farmers during the Marcos regime.

'War' rages at DENR

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE "WAR" between Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and his subordinate, Anthony Abaya, is far from over.

Yesterday, Alvarez threatened to file criminal charges against Abaya who sued him for libel for blaming Abaya for the increased importation of ozone-depleting substances in previous years.

Alvarez said that if evidence warrants, he would hold Abaya criminally liable as former head of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in charge of overseeing the importation.

"I will seek to protect the good name of my employees, especially those that I have known on a personal basis," Alvarez said.

"I will not hesitate to file even criminal charges against them, if the law warrants it, in the manner that I initiated the impeachment of an erring President," he added.

Alvarez led the filing of an impeachment case against former President Joseph Estrada in October last year at the House of Representatives.

He remained unfazed despite the libel case slapped against him by his subordinate.

Abaya earlier accused Alvarez of blocking his appointment as assistant secretary at the DENR.

Alvarez said the position of assistant secretary was a position of confidence.

"How can he be effective when his name is tainted?" Alvarez said.

Alvarez clarified that he was not after harming the career or reputation of anyone but was only exercising his duty "in the best way that I see it."

"The fact remains that our attention has been called by our foreign partners on the increase of ODS consumption because the department and the EMB is responsible for protecting our country from these harmful CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons)," the secretary pointed out.

He said Abaya should not be afraid of a DENR investigation of his alleged involvement as this would give the latter the opportunity to explain.

The drastic increase reportedly alarmed the international community, with the Swedish government reminding Philippine authorities on the country's "legal obligation" to the Montreal Protocol to reduce CFC consumption by 50 percent by Jan. 1, 2005, and 85 percent by Jan. 1, 2007.

Church turns 100

THE ST. Paul United Methodist Church at 1231 Sta. Maria St., Tondo, Manila, is marking its centennial with a weeklong celebration from Oct. 15-21 with the theme "Unwavering faith through changing times."

Former church workers and members are urged to attend the Workers' Night on the 15th and the Balik-Iglesia on the 16th, respectively. Bishop Solito Toquero of the Manila Episcopal Area will be the guest preacher during the main service on Oct. 21.

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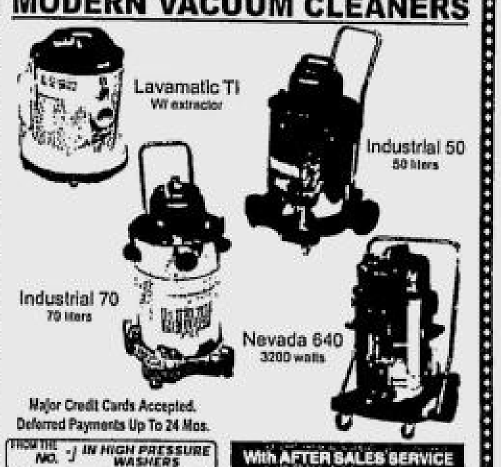

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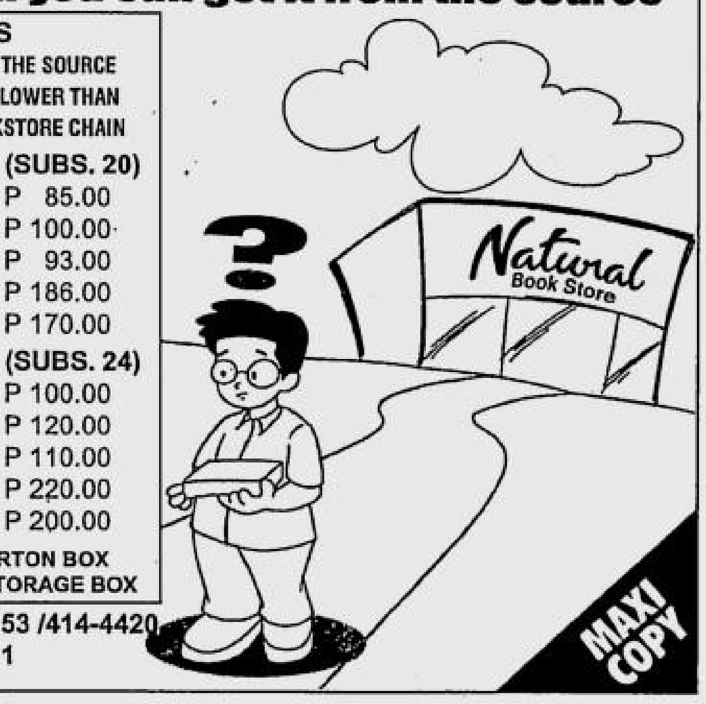

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 297
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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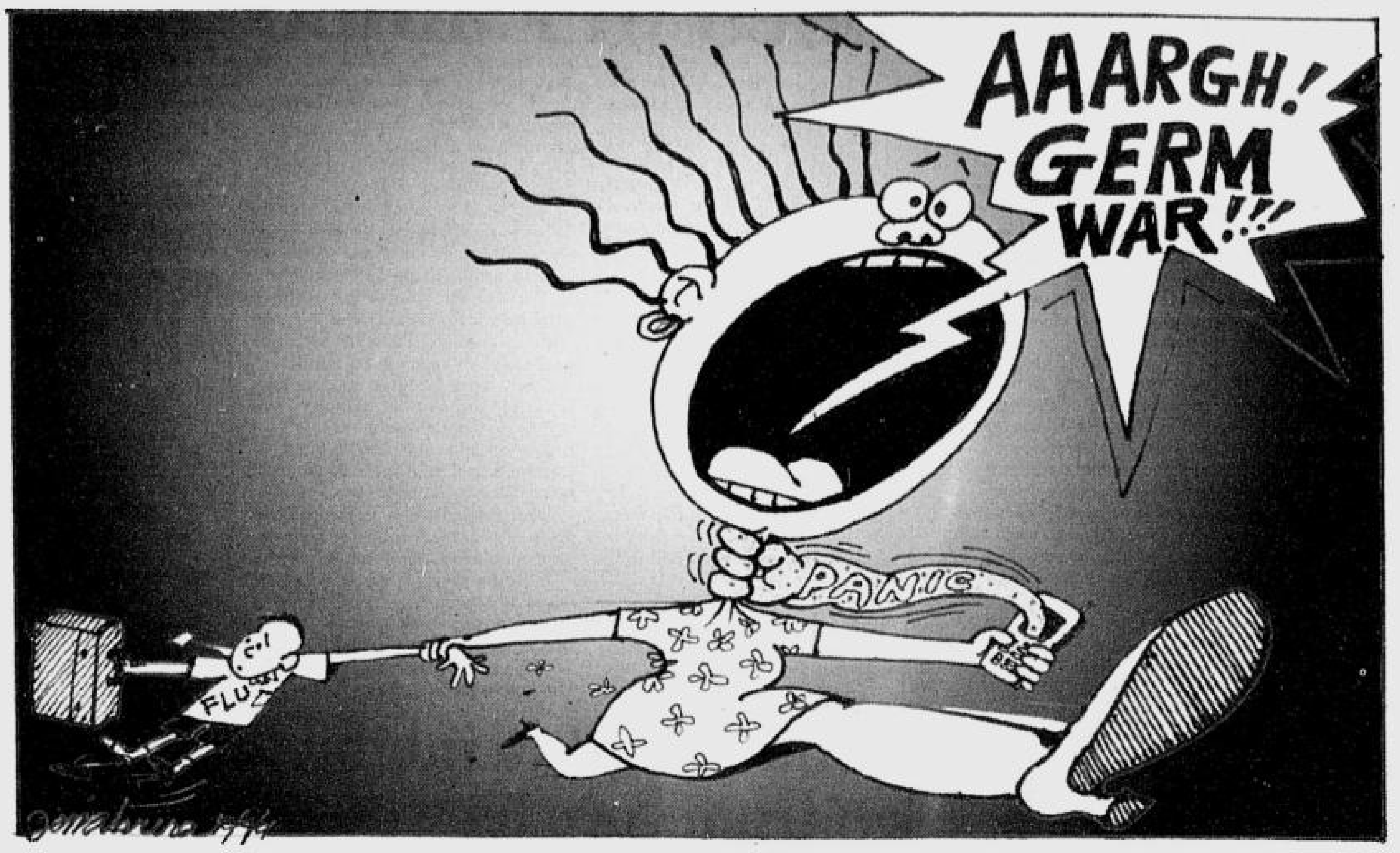

EDITORIALS

Panic

SEVERAL hundred children in Metro Manila have been stricken ill with influenza, causing jitters about germ warfare. If the infection had occurred at another time, it would have been taken as one of those recurrent flu outbreaks we had experienced in the past. But the nerves of people all over the world are frazzled following the terrorist attacks in the United States. And it hasn't helped that warnings are being made about possible attacks on population centers using chemical or biological agents, even as the US military prepares to launch attacks on terrorist networks and the ruling Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Officials of the Department of Health have asked the public not to panic. It has identified the virus as a mild strain of influenza. There has been no report of fatalities, but the large number of children getting ill within a few days was enough to cause alarm. The fact is that as early as two weeks ago, parents had reported their children going down with the flu.

Part of the panic was whipped up by the equally jittery media, which were quick to seize on the rising incidence of the infection to ask questions about whether the country had become the first victim of germ warfare.

Without being complacent, it is best not to panic and to go by the DOH's disease control bulletins. National Security Adviser Roilo Golez assured the public that the country was not the target of any biochemical attack by terrorists. But he said the rumor of such an attack was being spread by "anti-American groups" to frighten the government into withdrawing its support from the international coalition waging war on terrorism.

The withdrawal of the Philippines' commitment to the anti-terrorist campaign is out of the question. The prospects of this country being the first target of germ or chemical warfare are grossly exaggerated—unless we fancy ourselves as key players in the coalition. If the terrorists launch germ or chemical attacks, they would do it on targets that will produce maximum impact and in countries which are on the frontline of military preparations to strike at terrorist networks.

United response

THE US allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization the other day sealed their support for a US-led military action by formalizing their earlier declaration that under Article 5 of the Nato charter, an attack on one member is an attack on all. A united Nato response has crystallized behind military action after the allies had received "clear and compelling evidence" that Osama bin Laden and the terrorist network of Al Qaeda were responsible for the attacks.

This decision has now set the stage for an attack on Afghanistan and the Taliban. In a strong-worded statement, British Prime Minister Tony Blair warned the Taliban "to surrender the terrorists or surrender power," stressing "that is your choice." The drums of war are beating, and Pakistan's President Pervez Musharaff has given up mediation efforts to break the stand-off between the United States and the Taliban. He said that "because of the stand that the Taliban have taken, that confrontation will take place." The Taliban's days are numbered, he predicted.

Blair put the issue cogently. He said the nations of the world had no choice but to strike at the sources of terrorists. "Whatever the dangers of the action we take, the dangers of inaction are far, far greater," Blair said. "There is no compromise possible. With such people, there's no meeting of minds." He concluded that there was only one choice, "Defeat it or be defeated by it—and defeat it we must."

Although the Philippines has joined the coalition and has given US forces access to Subic and Clark for transshipment of military supplies and for refueling of aircraft, it is not in the frontline of the planned action. There's no reason to panic over the flu contagion in Metro Manila. Still, our best hope of keeping germ and chemical biological warfare away from our people lies in the success of the allied offensive to strike at the cells of international terrorism. Staying on the sidelines will not make us safe.

What and why of Anti-Money Laundering Act

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT'S not perfect, it's not foolproof, but it's good enough to begin with. That is the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 passed by Congress a few days ago.

A piece of legislation is rarely perfect the first time around. Legislators can't see all the possible loopholes and ramifications while they are crafting it—and especially if it is done in a super-hurry, as was the Anti-Money Laundering Bill. As the imperfections appear, Congress introduces amendments to make the law better.

That was what Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Francis Pangilinan and Rep. Jimmy Lopez told the audience at the Kapihan sa Manila forum last Monday. Lopez is chair of the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries, and Pangilinan is his counterpart in the Senate. The four of them were invited to explain the provisions of the law and how it will affect bank depositors.

In the first place, only 2 percent of bank depositors may fall under the provisions of the law: those who will have a deposit of P4 million or more. Only 2 percent of accounts have deposits this big, Buenaventura said, and among this, only a small number would be affected. Only deposits of suspicious origins will be reported by the banks to a special three-man body headed by the Bangko Sentral governor. This body will, if evidence warrants, order the freezing of the deposit. The depositor has 72 hours to explain where he got the money. If the explanation is satisfactory, the freeze order is lifted. If it is not, the three-man panel goes to court with its evidence. The court has 60 days to decide the case. Failing to do that, the freeze order is automatically lifted after 60 days. If the government is able to prove that the deposit is dirty money, it will be forfeited in favor of the government and the depositor faces criminal prosecution.

You will note that that only those who will have deposits of P4 million and more will be covered by the law. It is in the future tense because the law has no retroactive effect. If you already have more than P4 million in deposits now, you are exempted. Only if you accumulate P4 million or more after at least 15 days after the law's publication will the banks give your deposit any notice—and only if they think its origins are suspicious.

You can't use dummies or fictitious names (a la Jose Velarde), either; that is now prohibited. Numbered accounts, I think, are still allowed, but the banks must have your identity in their records.

But what is "dirty money" and why and how is it "laundered"? Money is said to be "dirty" when it is derived from criminal activities such as drug trafficking, kidnapping, graft, illegal arms sales, smuggling, prostitution, bribery, embezzlement, bank robbery and other crimes. It is "laundered" or made to look clean by concealing or disguising the nature or source of the money. This is done through a series of transactions in the banking sector and the stock market. The purpose is to make the money appear to have legitimate origins so that it can be retained permanently or recycled to fund legitimate or even illegitimate activities.

Before the effectivity of the law, you can deposit dirty money in the bank or buy shares of stocks or government bonds. Or you can invest it in business enterprises or in real estate. Thus, the dirty money derived from criminal activities become legitimate, is recycled and reinvested and the criminals themselves pose as legitimate and "respectable" businessmen, perhaps even contributing generously to charity. With the money, they can even have themselves elected or appointed to the government. Crime syndicates like the Mafia have long been doing this in the United States and elsewhere.

As crime syndicates grew, they have been able to influence politicians and subvert governments all over the world. That is why the world's nations have agreed to band together to stop the spread of transnational organized crime. Laundered money is now being used not only for the commission of the usual crimes but also for terrorism like what Osama bin Laden has allegedly done in attacking the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. One way to stop that is to stop money laundering.

A law against money laundering deters economic crimes because criminals can be disabled through the confiscation of criminal proceeds and imprisoned. But anti-money laundering laws can be effective only if all or almost all nations have such laws. If not, the crime syndicates will just transfer their deposits to countries with no such laws. Curiously, the Philippines, although an active member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Anti-Money Laundering, had no such law until Sept. 29 this year.

That is why the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental body created at the 1989 G-7 Economic Summit and made up of 26 countries and two international organizations, gave the Philippines a Sept. 30 deadline to pass such a law. We beat that deadline by one day. Had we not, the FATF would have imposed sanctions on us. Besides the more obvious sanctions such as a ban on loans and economic aids, our banks and business companies wouldn't have been able to transact business internationally.

Will the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 be able to stop the activities here of the crime syndicates? We don't know yet. As the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. If the pudding is not so delicious, the baker can improve the ingredients and the mix to make it more delicious. The same thing can be done with the law.

Winning the war

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DR. Tony Kern, a retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force and former director of Military History of the USAF Academy, has written a very thoughtful piece that has been making the rounds of the e-mail.

Like all Americans, he says, he is reeling from the World Trade Center attacks. But "in spite of what the media, and even our own government, are telling us, this was not committed by a group of mentally deranged fanatics. (It) was committed by a ferocious, intelligent and dedicated adversary. Don't take this the wrong way. I don't admire these men and I deplore their tactics, but I respect their capabilities... We must not underestimate the power of their moral commitment. Napoleon stated that the moral is to the physical as three is to one. (Patton thought it was five to one.) Our enemies are willing—better said, anxious—to give their lives for their cause."

This is the enemy America faces today, Kern says. Though it helps to have superior might, that is not the decisive element in this war. What will be decisive is will. Will America be willing to fight this war two or three years from now? Make no mistake about it, Kern warns, this enemy "will not go easily into the night. We will be fighting a war of annihilation, because if their early efforts are any indication, our enemy is ready and willing to die, to the last man."

"It is clear to me," Kern says, "that the will of the American citizenry—you and I—is the center of gravity the enemy has targeted. It will be the fulcrum upon which victor or defeat will turn."

One can only add to this that this will be the first time America will be fighting a war on its own shores. Unlike previous wars America has fought, this war won't confine its toll to American soldiers in the jungles or desert lairs of the enemy, it will extend it to its citizens in its streets and schools. There are no limits to how far America can protect itself from attacks from the outside. There are limits to how far America can protect itself from attacks from the inside. Particularly from people who learn how to fly and build their bodies in gyms with the single-minded purpose of dying, while bringing as many of their enemies as they can to share that fate.

Can America win such a war? Well, I personally do not underestimate the importance of the American military might, particularly in conjunction with global sanctions for its use. It is a daunting force that is poised like a dagger at the heart of Taliban country. And I personally do not underestimate the extent of the American will. I agree with George Bush that that will is strong, vibrant and indomitable. The image of the World Trade Center crumbling and pinning down thousands of Americans under the rubble won't be so easily forgotten. And the image is to the exhortation as three to one, or five to one. Nothing steels more implacably than pain. The more pain Americans suffer, from the attacks Kern warns of, the more surely it will forge that will. What doesn't kill you, as Nietzche said, will make you stronger.

But I don't know that America will win the war as a result of it. I do not believe with Kern that the decisive element in this war is will, however that is a brilliant insight. I believe it is vision.

At the very least, the same principle that says America will become more resolute the more it is attacked applies to its enemy too. Turning the deserts that hide Osama bin Laden into howling wildernesses won't make the enemy go easily into the night, as Kern says, it will make them come storming back into the day. People who go on suicide missions do not do so because they have everything to gain, they do so because they have nothing to lose. They do not do so because their religion gives them a reason to die, they do so because their personal circumstances give them no reason to live.

Far more than this, I do not know that America will win the war by capturing or killing Bin Laden. This is so not just because others are bound to take his place. This is so because he is not just a terrorist, he is also an idea. He is not just an enemy, he is also a symbol. Perverse as it may seem, Bin Laden represents for many Arabs someone who has stood up to a perceived aggression. For many Arabs, especially Muslims, as so many Middle Eastern observers have pointed out, they are not the aggressors here, they are the victims.

An idea may not be killed by bullets, it may be killed only by another idea. A symbol may not be obliterated by bombs, it may be obliterated only by more powerful symbols. By himself, Bin Laden and the world he represents, are a lost cause. I myself do not like organized religions, and especially detest ones that invest the religious caste with police powers, treat women like cattle and extol the virtues of technological deprivation. The people who hold the Taliban, and the other fundamentalists across the Middle East, in contempt are right to do so. In a fight between idea and idea, symbol and symbol, religious intolerance will not win against pluralism, fascism will not win against democracy, backwardness will not win against progress. But try defeating the first with bullets and the result will be different.

Try defeating intolerance, fascism and backwardness with bullets, and the result will be to give them new lease on life. Try defeating fanatics and extremists and fundamentalists with bullets, and the result will be to make martyrs out of them. Try defeating ideas and symbols with bullets, and the result will be to make them win. No, I am not particularly anxious that America will not find Bin Laden and destroy him and his band of cutthroats utterly and completely. I am anxious that it will.

That won't put an end to him. That will raise him from the grave where he is now.

Why didn't any of Erap's lawyers show up?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DEPOSED President Estrada's lawyers have filed a petition to have last Monday's trial of Estrada and his son Jinggoy declared null and void on the argument that none of his lawyers was around to defend him. But whose fault was it that not one of those nine lawyers of his was around? Recall that the Sandiganbayan was forced to assign a government lawyer to act as Erap's counsel after all his lawyers failed to appear with him for various reasons. The date for the trial was set over two months ago, so why couldn't even one or two of those nine lawyers have been around?

Obviously the defense lawyers are going to use every tactic in the book or outside to delay the trial until 2004, when they hope a friendlier climate would prevail. *Okay lang 'yon*, but they ought to invoke reasons that don't insult the public's intelligence *naman*. As to Estrada appearing in court in slippers and jacket, that was calculated to play to his old *masa* constituency, but it is clear that the people's minds are no longer on him. He should act more dignified and look less pathetic.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo lamented that the police and military officers now fighting before the joint Senate committee hearings come from the Philippine Military Academy. His criticism has put the PMA on the defensive, and some younger graduates have been quoted as saying they were doing some soul-searching to find the reason why their alma mater and its alumni have come under fire. It is good that the PMA graduates should use the occasion for soul-searching, for the elite academy's record has been quite checkered. But then, so has the record of UP and the Ateneo. To the UP belonged the old dictator Ferdinand Marcos and a number of his infamous cronies, while Ateneo has produced some close allies of Marcos as well as a number of members of high school class '55, who propped up Erap despite his shenanigans, simply because they themselves were profiting enormously from their close association with him.

* * *

In an earlier column, I aired the concern of environmentalists over the fate of the scenic island of Siargao off the coast of Surigao. Siargao, which is known as the Philippines' "surfing capital," is home to a number of famed resorts, among them the Pansukian Tropical Resort owned by Frenchman Nicolas Rambeau. Environmentalists, like diving instructor Gary Cases, are alarmed by the reported destruction of forests and coral reefs there due to wanton logging and dynamite fishing, and the construction of man-made concrete structures that destroy the white beaches and impede the flow of water into the Sohoton Cove.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez tasked DENR Executive Director Elias R. Seraspi Jr. of the Caraga Region, to look into these complaints. Seraspi wrote me to say that the whole Siargao Island and islets are protected areas under the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (Siplas), as proclaimed by PD 902. As such, it is jointly managed by a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and the DENR. He admitted that dynamite fishing flourished in the past, but said it was curbed after the DENR and PAMB joined hands to identify and charge the perpetrators. In addition, Siplas rangers, together with local authorities, have established a monitoring station to protect the island's terrestrial and marine resources. With regard to the shoreline reclamation and the construction of the public market, its implementation was put on hold by the PAMB pending submission of requirements and proper study, while the construction of the bridge that aims to connect General Luna and Barangay Union in Dapa has long been stopped.

Seraspi stressed that DENR personnel in Surigao del Norte have been instructed to work in close coordination with the LGUs concerned and the PAMB, to conduct a thorough investigation of the issues being raised in Siargao. "Rest assured that we are zealous in protecting our beautiful beaches and living marine museums in Siargao Island," he said.

Environmentalists will be watching what happens in Siargao.

* * *

Since their chambers ratified the new Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 over the weekend, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia have been busy defending it. I queried De Venecia on the claim that the law became so "watered-down," but he argued that it's more a question of "scaling down" in order to pass it before the deadline. For instance, he pointed out that while a similar US law lists some 189 "predicate crimes," ours lists only 14 crimes inasmuch as there are already many other laws covering other crimes. De Venecia also stressed that very much a part of the protection against harassment provided by the new law to bank clients is the fact that they can appeal their case to no less than the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court. The feeling in the House is that the magistrates in the upper courts are less prone to bribery. Far from being "weak" or "toothless" as its critics have said, De Venecia asserted that the law meets and exceeds the minimum requirements of the Financial Action Task Force.

* * *

The Senate president stressed that in crafting the new law, Congress had to seek a balance between the police powers of the state and the right of the individual to privacy. He said most apprehensions reaching him involve the freezing of suspicious bank accounts. There is a mistaken perception that a court order is needed to freeze such accounts, and the fear is that by the time this is obtained, the depositor would have taken the deposits out. Drilon stressed that a court order is not necessary to freeze an account; the law allows the Monetary Board to do so for 15 days, without a court order. The instances where a court order is needed are: (1) if the MB seeks to extend the 15-day freeze period, and (2) to open the suspicious account to scrutiny and examination after probable cause is established that a depositor is involved in money laundering.

Drilon also stressed that the law guarantees a lot of protection for bank clients. For instance, the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) that's tasked to look into suspicious accounts is composed of high officials with fixed tenure: the Bangko Sentral governor, the chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the insurance commissioner. Then there is the provision giving the owner of the suspicious account 72 hours to explain the source of the money.

Needless to say, the citizens will closely watch how this law will be enforced.

Rich child, poor child

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"WOULD the whole world be as outraged about the Sept. 11 disasters if the victims had not been primarily Americans?" someone in my e-group asked even as the 24/7 media coverage was still underway. As a media person, I would have to say that, of course, if two planes slammed into a skyscraper in, say, Kuala Lumpur, the event would have been covered live and beamed to all parts of the globe. But yes, it would not have received as extensive and emotional a coverage as the tragedies in New York and Washington, D.C. And I doubt if it would have been dubbed an "Attack on Civilization."

The news, and its coverage, is really far from objective. The "play" given an event, issue or personality really depends a lot on the personal values and beliefs of the reporter or editor assessing it.

For instance, would the large number of schoolchildren coming down with influenza have received the same kind of fevered TV, radio and print coverage if the students were from public schools? Couldn't the fact that the children were students of exclusive schools like St. Paul's Pasig, La Salle Greenhills, Xavier School, Poveda and Immaculate Conception Academy have influenced the way reporters and editors exercised their news judgment?

I found it strange, for one, that no one seemed to be asking if public school students were getting sick in similar numbers. And if not, did it mean that these children, coming from families of humbler station, were healthier?

Or was it a case of class bias? Does the health of children of the rich matter more than that of children of the poor?

* * *

REPLYING to yesterday's column on the seemingly aborted protests against the reduction in free text allocations, Anthony Ian M. Cruz, spokesperson of TXTPower, wrote to provide an update on their moves.

TXTPower has been forced to bring the issue of the free text cuts to the attention of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he said, "because the government agencies that supposedly protect consumers are either too slow or too friendly to Globe and Smart."

Thousands responded to the TXTPower campaign, dubbed "Oplan TXT GMA: Fyt 4 gov't protxn!" Cruz reports, and sources within the Palace say the President "received thousands of text messages demanding presidential action in what we call simple 'highway robbery.'"

"For the record, we have yet to hear anything from her or from the Palace spokesperson regarding concrete measures to at least investigate the matter or at most give back what was taken away from texters," says Cruz. TXTPower and their friends in the Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTI) are still studying their legal options, adds Cruz, after a Makati court dismissed their case against Smart and Globe. But only after the judge lifted a TRO he had issued against the giants, which at the time won for the judge a lot of *pogi* points with the public, I might add.

* * *

ALSO part of the protests against the unilateral decision to cut free text was a boycott of cell phone use called by TXTPower over the weekend of Sept. 1 and 2. "That boycott did push through and, judging from the gracious comments and statements of broad nationwide support from various organizations and personalities, it was able to project a stark reality that Globe and Smart should worry about: texters are now fighting back," is Cruz's spin on that move.

Some people I spoke with at Globe, however, claim that while there was a noticeable drop in cell phone usage in the early hours of the boycott, the volume of calls "returned to normal" as the day wore on. I guess you can't tear the *bagets* from their cell phones, even for their own good.

Cruz also expresses disappointment at our legislators, who seemed willing enough to ride on the publicity generated by the issue, but demurred from incurring the ire of the giants.

"After coming out with a Texters Declaration which was signed by thousands via e-mail, TXTPower represented cell phone users in an Aug. 30 public hearing of the House committee on transportation and communications. Unfortunately, no concrete reprieve was offered and a lawmaker even asked us not to push through with the Sept. 1 texters' boycott!"

The hearing, though, produced a side controversy of its own. The representatives who called for the hearings, dubbed the "Gang of Five," were accused of instigating the investigation to extort payoffs from the cell phone giants. The five legislators in turn pointed to two House leaders as intriguing against them. Lost in the shuffle, it seems, were the rights of cell phone consumers.

* * *

GIVEN all these obstacles, and Malacañang's *dedma*, TXTPower, says Cruz, has decided to "return to basics." And by basics, he says, they're "referring to empowering cell phone users about their rights as consumers. If that means that we have to go to schools, offices, communities and wherever there are consumers who want to know their rights, we would do so. "Initially, we have set up a mailing list at txtpower@yahoo groups.com to receive complaints, a website is in the works at www.txtpower.com and we are touching base with more consumers. We have even received feelers from small Internet service providers long pissed off with the bad treatment they get from Globe, Smart and other big telecom firms. We have asked engineers to help in probing the ins and outs of the cell phone networks so that we could find out if we are being overcharged or not. We are also aiming to work with existing consumer groups in putting up a broad united front. A summit, nay, a consumers' bull session is also on the drawing board. And perhaps by next semester, fairs and fora on texters' rights and consumer rights would likely begin here in Metro Manila." Cruz asserts: "In texters' parlance, we r hir 2 stay n we wil fyt bak!"

In a child's 'silent place'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"Why do people do these things to America? I don't get it."—**A little boy's question after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States**

I WASN'T on this planet yet during World War II. I came to earth some years later. But I grew up at the time when people (family, relatives, househelp, neighbors) still spoke vividly about the war and described their experiences through stories that could terrify a child. (The way people still do now about the Marcos dictatorship.)

I was not terrified. I loved listening to true-to-life war stories. It was like the movies. The terror came later—in dreams. Not very often did these dreams come, but when they played out in the night, they sure were so vivid I still remember the horrific details to this day. They were mostly about Japanese soldiers attacking, looting, burning, bayoneting. Frightened people running, shouting, against a backdrop of flames. Like in Peque Gallaga's "Oro Plata Mata."

Believe me, my war-related nightmares in childhood were cinematic and in technicolor. One had me running for dear life from a band of pursuing Japanese and just when one of them caught up with me and pierced my back with his *bayoneta* I woke up—still in bed and not among angels, but shaking in terror.

I was not even born when these story plots actually happened. The dreams came from the stories I heard. Stories about babies tossed in the air and landing on bayonets. Civilians beheaded. Townspeople who fought and were killed in the war. Stories about courage and rage. Like how barrio lads lynched to death a Japanese soldier sauntering on the beach and buried his body in the sand.

The bayonets. To a child, they were the symbol of cruelty. And I had only seen them in the movies and later in museums. Speaking of movies, they helped put the terror and cruelty in context. As kids we watched mainly westerns, cartoons and comedies, bible and war movies. Not romantic stuff. "A Night to Remember" (a five-star classic), my parents explained, was a true story about the sinking of the Titanic. Come to think of it, most of those films had lots of action—and bayonets.

Some war films I remember right now are "To Hell and Back" (starring Audie Murphy in his own bio-film), "Guadalcanal Diary," "Target Zero" and "Heaven Knows Mister Allison" (4½ stars) with Deborah Kerr as a nun and Robert Mitchum as a marine soldier on a Pacific island. The scene that stuck to my young mind was the virginal Kerr putting a lighted cigarette on the lips of Mitchum who was being carried on a stretcher—just before the screen said "The End." (I have a terrific memory for details, I am told.)

If the war movies put the war tales in context for me, it was war games and storytelling that exorcised the childhood terror. Storytelling with playmates was so much fun. Dreams were among the things we shared. The scarier the better, the more embellished the better. One could narrate bravely and with aplomb because they were only dreams.

And I could add here that we shared fairy and ghost stories, too (plus questions on how babies were made). And because, unlike my playmates, I never saw a fairy, I simply drew from the fairy tales I had read and made them sound like they happened in our backyard, my imagined woodland. This was more fun than Sunday piano lessons.

Yes, the power of stories, of telling and retelling of stories. Storytelling heals, soothes, exorcises and provides catharsis for children. There were no child therapists in those days, in my hometown near the sea. We had storytelling and occasional movies instead. And war games among trees and on fields glistening in the rain.

Later when there was so much from the radio about Berlin and that Wall which I understood little about, I would be filled with dread. I knew it was far away but real. World War III? I watched my parents' body language and they didn't seem worried. I didn't want to know about the Cold War. I had quite an imagination already.

In 1991 when I visited Berlin and stood before the crumbled Berlin Wall, I said to myself: *Mein Gott*, this caused a Filipino child to worry about what's gonna happen to her world.

One thing I know: I didn't grow up to be a fearful adult. Thanks to games, movies and storytelling .

I write about all these after having watched on TV kids in the United States being helped to come to terms with the terrorist attacks that killed thousands. How did they feel while seeing on TV an airplane exploding as it hit the Twin Towers? After realizing it wasn't a movie and that people they knew or loved perished, what went on in their minds and hearts?

There's been an admirable effort on the part of TV networks not to show blood and gore. But the grief, pain and shock had to be shown—and the courage and compassion as well. Lately TV has not been showing repeatedly the awesome footage of the plane smashing into the WTC and the towers crumbling. You see it once and the image never leaves you.

There is no way adults could completely shield the young from the reality of the tragedy.

"I don't get it," said one boy. There are many questions that have to be answered in a way that a child can grasp. Therapists are helping the children express their feelings through drawings, words and many other ways. What about teeners who have another kind of war inside themselves?

An Afghan kid who is 7 going on 27 and has lived through war all her life would look at the tragedy differently from a New York kid who, until recently, has seen explosions only in computer games. But deep inside, both have a "silent place" where life stories grow.

In the book of photos from "The Family of Man"—the "greatest photographic exhibition of all time"—are faces of children and a line from Lillian Smith: "...deep inside, in that silent place, where a child's fears crouch..."

Old folks, old needs

YOUNGBLOOD

Eunice Mocas

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—****Ed.***

THE MOST memorable experience I had when I joined the YFC Youth Camp last summer was my encounter with the priest who gave us confession. I was second in line, and I was surprised when my best friend who went first came back less than a minute later. Not that it usually takes her forever to confess, but it was certainly very unusual for her to finish in such a short span of time.

Still wondering what happened, I went inside the room where the priest was, and the moment I sat down right beside him, I wondered no more. "Father, I think I just forgot my sins" was the first thing I wanted to say when I began my confession.

He was an old priest—so old in fact that (please forgive me for saying this) my first impression was that he had risen from six feet underground just to hear our confession. I felt really weird sitting there, and I felt even weirder when he started talking.

"O, huwag mo ilayo 'yung upuan! Kaya nga inilapit para marinig eh!" he ordered. I thought he was going to strangle me and I apologized right away.

As soon as I moved closer to him, he asked me. "*Kelan ka huling nangumpisal?*"

"Last year *po*, Father," I answered.

"*Ano? Lakasan mo't di kita marinig!*"

"Last year *po*, Father!" I practically screamed in his ear.

"O, *ano 'yung mga kasalanan mo*?"

I confessed my sins, which was about half of what I had prepared to say since it was all I could remember.

"'*Yun lang*?" he asked. And when I said yes, he murmured the "Act of Contrition," absolved me of my sins, gave me my penance and then said, "God bless."

When I went out of the room, I felt more stunned than blessed. I had finished my confession in what seemed like 30 seconds. Amazing.

I felt bad about how my confession went, but kept my feelings to myself. But as the queue outside the room got longer, I could hear some people who had finished their confession complaining about the priest. They stopped when one of the YFC leaders told them to just go and keep their thoughts to themselves. It made me feel better.

The next day, our folks came to watch our formal admission as YFC members. Mass was said, then we joined our parents for a kind of "bonding session."

When we were done, I went to greet the folks of my two best friends. One of my friends had her grandmother with her, and when the grandmother saw me she gave me this really big, tight and long hug. She looked really happy to see me, and she hugged me several times after that. I felt warm inside.

Although we met only once, two years earlier when my best friend invited me to a sleepover at her grandparents' house, and spent just a few hours together (she taught me how to play mahjong!), I felt really close to her then. It was as if she was my grandmother, too.

After that, we talked for a while. We just said a few words, and she was squeezing my hand and smiling at me all the time. She had to leave with my best friend's mom, and before she left, she squeezed my hand one last time and then we kissed each other on the cheek and said goodbye.

There was something different in the way she did those things. They made me feel very warm, and it was like she was able to feel right through me and touch the very center of my heart.

This is how I've always viewed old people: scary old, lovable old, weak old, ridiculous old, *makulit* old. I have always imagined them being assisted by someone as they walked around if they were not simply resting at home. I thought that they always nagged you to do this and do that or not to do this and not to do that and that they never failed to remind you how things were done during their time. They nagged you about how you dressed, how you acted, how you spoke, etc. etc. They nagged you about almost everything. I always thought that they had to be handled with care because they were too weak to do many things on their own.

Even so, no matter how scary or weak or irritating they can get, there is always a part of us that loves them and that will be touched by them. Lola Remedios showed us that.

Lola Remedios is from the Community of Services for the Elderly (COSE). Accompanied by Ate Jenny, she came to our school last June 25 to speak to us about their plight. Because of her, my earlier perceptions about the elderly (except for the lovable part) were turned upside down.

The elderly do not want to be considered as weak. They do not want to be pitied. In fact, they like to be responsible and do things on their own. Many of them still do household chores, go to market and do other things which prove that they are not dependent on others. Some of them are still working even up to now, like that priest. Others take care of the kids while their parents work and take care of the home.

But sometimes, even if they show that they still lived useful lives, we can't help but take them for granted. We don't pay them enough attention and give them enough respect. They have always showered us with love and affection, and now that they've grown old and don't have a really long time to live, we often forget to show them our appreciation, our concern and our love for them.

We should bring ourselves closer to them instead of being distant, because sooner or later we will regret our failure to give them the tender loving care they deserve. Although there are institutions that care for the elderly, it is always better if we show them that they are important to us.

My grandparents are still alive, and I feel very lucky that they are. The only problem is, I have some difficulty in showing all that love, appreciation and concern. I used to think that going to my grandparents' house was a hassle (especially the one on my mom's side) because they usually nagged me about everything, but I have since realized that the nagging was one their ways of showing that they loved me very much (sounds weird, huh?). They were the ones who took care of me most of the time when I was a baby, and now that I'm 16, it's my turn to take care of them.

I have decided to start with my own grandmother (from my mom's side) because she was my "mom" while my real mom was away working in the office. I've decided to visit her every weekend, chat with her and join her whenever she's having snacks (because I usually don't when she asks me to). The same goes with my grandfather. It doesn't matter if I have a lot of things to do, I'll still spend time with them—even just an hour. I've also decided that when the time comes that they can't do things by themselves anymore, I'd offer to take care of them. And of course I'll always give them the one basic thing we should give all of the elderly: respect.

Other than my grandparents, I'll try to help the elderly in every way I can: by offering them my seat in church (we sometimes bring our own chairs since it's very crowded), letting them go ahead during communion and volunteering my services in a home for the aged starting this year. I haven't decided where but this is my goal for this year.

One day, I'll grow old too, and I will be where they are now. Then I, too, would want to be shown some love, affection and respect by every young boy and girl that I meet.

Eunice Mocas, 16, is a high school junior at the Assumption College in Makati.

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Why was Garcia ousted as PSE president?

TO SOMEBODY who neither buys nor sells stocks (that's most of us Filipinos), the sacking of Ramon T. Garcia as president of the Philippine Stock Exchange by its Board of Governors should be a non-event. The board hired Garcia; so it certainly has the power to fire him—for "loss of confidence," as the board claims.

But there is more than meets the eye here.

In firing Garcia, whose interests was the board protecting? The PSE's or that of Manuel Pangilinan's Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.?

Garcia's actions showed very clearly that he had the interest of the PSE at heart. He simply wanted the FBDC to comply with its part of an agreement from which the FBDC has already benefited so that the PSE in turn can realize the benefits due it. In this case, it is as much the obligations of the board as it is of the CEO to uphold the interest of the PSE rather than that of one particular member.

When push comes to shove in the competitive world of business, all gentility gives way to the most primal of instincts: the preservation of one's own kind and sacrifice, if need be, of the expendables. Between Pangilinan, who has a wide-ranging business empire, and Garcia, a professional manager who controls no comparable assets, the members of the board must have believed that their interest would be best served by mollifying the former rather than backing their own president. It would be interesting to find out whether the general membership of the PSE see things the same way.

There is talk of backroom negotiations for a so-called "win-win" outcome of the controversy. So far, it has been a big win for the FBDC and a fat zero for the PSE. Had the PSE agreed to the watered-down proposal of the FBDC, the former would indeed win some—some crumbs.

The latest offer from the FBDC—no doubt an attempt at damage control—an amendment to the one that the PSE rejected, is a smart move. It purportedly restores to the PSE most of what it was originally promised. Except for one crucial element: time. The FBDC will now deliver the new PSE facilities not by December 2004 as originally agreed upon but up to as late as 2011. You don't have to be a finance specialist to figure out who wins in this latest offer.

It is not that the PSE is deserving of our sympathies. Recall that it got a free trading floor from the Ayalas in the heart of Makati's business center, and another generous freebie for its headquarters and trading floor at the Tektite Tower in Ortigas Center from Philrealty. The PSE got these by playing one site against the other.

Then in 1998, the PSE decided to jump ship because of the promise of even bigger freebies from the FBDC at the Global City. How lucky can the PSE get.

But that was then, and now the PSE's luck has run out.

Why would Garcia, who is known to many as a very prudent man, lock horns with Pangilinan and, even more surprisingly, with his own board? Why would he rock the boat in the twilight of his professional career when he doesn't have to prove anything anymore to anyone? I don't presume to know the answer, but would say this nonetheless: Garcia's business at the PSE or outside of it (where I've come to know him) is all about forthright, honest and just relationships. Business with honor, not business as usual.

I salute him. May he and his kind ultimately prevail.—**MELITO M. RICAFRENTE, 7 Major Dizon St., IVC, Marikina City**

Time to raise limit on foreign ownership of firms

CEBU Rep. Tony Cuenco's proposal to introduce economic amendments to the 1987 Constitution is timely, especially now that the country is experiencing a serious economic slump.

Cuenco's proposal to increase the ownership share of foreign investors to 60 or 70 percent would definitely boost the country's flagging economy. Under the charter, foreign investors are allowed only a 40-percent share of a local enterprise.

The bias of the framers of the Constitution on the issue of national sovereignty did not help the country move forward. We are still poor and lagging behind other Asian countries that were considered depressed nations then. Because of this self-imposed limitation, foreign investors would rather do business in other countries like Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia or Thailand which offer more attractive economic incentives.

We are facing serious employment problems. According to the Department of Labor and Employment about 1,549 business establishments have closed shop due to the recession in many countries. Thousands of workers have been laid off.

It is about time we faced reality. We should act with dispatch and do the right thing for our nation and the future generations.—**VENANCIO REMOJO, 2133 Primo Rivera, Makati City**

Is IRA not a terrorist group?

LAST Sept. 19, your paper carried an impressive map which claimed to show where all the world's major terrorist groups were found. Strangely, one very long established group was conspicuous for its absence. Three leaders of this group were recently photographed training guerrillas in South America! In the past, that group has trained and in turn has been trained by several groups depicted on your map. Can it be that because the funding for this group comes from America it is therefore considered a "politically correct" terrorist group?

I wonder how there can be a "world war on terrorism" which excludes the great masterminds of the Irish Republican Army. What an insult!—**JENNIFER G.R. WALLUM, 1665 Dasmariñas Ave., Dasmariñas Village, Makati City**

Unsatisfactory service of Comexpress

I WOULD like to call the attention of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez to the very poor service being provided by the Philippine Nation Railways Comexpress, which was inaugurated last month by President Macapagal.

Firstly, air-conditioned trains are not regular. Usually non-air-conditioned trains are used during rush hours. I thought the Comexpress would use only air-conditioned trains to serve Metro Manila commuters.

Secondly, the Comexpress trains are always delayed if the trip are not cancelled during rush hours especially in the morning.

Thirdly, southbound trains have fewer coaches (two or three) even during rush hours so that passengers are packed like sardines.

I hope the secretary will look into this. I suggest that he pay a surprise visit to one of the PNR stations, like those on España or Sta. Mesa, so he can see the situation. I suggest that he make the visit during rush hours.—**MEL CAPARAS, 826 D. Santiago St., Sampaloc, Manila**

Maynilad assumed 90 percent of MWSS foreign loans

INSTEAD of shedding light on the issue, Marcelo Tecson's letter last Sept. 24 in response to the letter of Maynilad Water Services Inc. president Rafael M. Alunan III only muddled it. The facts are these:

As part of the privatization program, Maynilad had to assume 90 percent of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System foreign loans in 1997 amounting to $800 million, payable over the life of the 25-year concession, of which $300 million is front-loaded in the first six years. At that time, the exchange rate was only P26.30 to the dollar but this ballooned to a disastrous P52 in four years, an event which no one was able to foresee. Thus, the peso equivalent at the time of the bid of around P20 billion doubled to P40 billion by end of 2000. As a result, Maynilad had to pay an additional P2.7 billion from August 1997 to December 2000 to service these loans, an amount that should have been spent on our expansion and modernization programs.

The Concession Agreement, which serves as the contract between Maynilad and the MWSS, gives the concessionaire the right to fully recover such costs arising from unforeseen circumstances like the peso depreciation.

But Tecson is right when he says that Manila Water, the East Zone concessionaire, does not have the "same magnitude of forex losses that plagues Maynilad." Manila Water, in fact, only assumed 10 percent of the MWSS foreign loans, amounting to $100 million.

Tecson cites certain financial principles, such as financing costs not being validly recoverable from consumers. These are not, however, relevant or applicable to Maynilad, primarily because there is a Concession Agreement that governs the relationship between Maynilad and the MWSS.

For a fuller understanding of the situation, it may be worthwhile for Tecson to refer to the country's B-O-T law and its variants, where infrastructure projects are generally implemented under the so-called Project Finance Mode. This means the initial capital investments are funded by equity and debt, generally on a 30-70 ratio.

Moreover, Tecson writes that forex losses could have been avoided by opting for equity infusion instead of contracting foreign loans, by inviting other partners into the consortium and/or making an initial public offering. That is possible. But in the case of the foreign loan on which Maynilad's forex losses were incurred, that loan was already a contracted loan of the MWSS. Furthermore, Maynilad's stockholders have so far infused $41 million more in equity than expected at the time of the bid for privatization.

Proper research could have prevented Tecson from making wrong assumptions.—**SALVADOR G. TIRONA, chief finance officer, Maynilad Water Services Inc., MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City**

The domestication of humans

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ARCHAEOLOGICAL findings suggest that human beings domesticated dogs more than 10,000 years ago. One theory about this domestication is that early human hunters saw the wolves as possible "assistants" for hunting, or to guard camps. To tame these wolves, humans offered food scraps to those that dared to approach their camps.

That theory has been disputed: early human communities probably did not have that much food to share out with animals.

An alternative theory then is that the wolves themselves came around human camps and began to scavenge around the humans' garbage and scrap heaps. Something similar may have happened with the ancestors of our domestic cats: they simply began to hang around human settlements, living off the rats that had also come around to scavenge.

With time, humans began to recognize the animals' utility and may have started to feed the animals, coaxing them to come closer, to stay on. At the same time, in a process of co-evolution, the friendlier animals began to bond with humans, adopting us as part of their packs and learning to read human emotions. It was no longer tolerating each other's existence but adjusting our lifestyles to accommodate each other. In many ways—and pet owners know this—our dogs and cats have learned to tame us.

Dogs and cats quickly became part of our lives. Whenever I visit art museums, I love looking for dogs and cats in paintings. They are all over, in all kinds of settings: rural and urban, in the wild outdoors and in cozy homes. The paintings reflect the dogs' evolving roles, from bored-looking lap dogs to an early example, dating back to the 16th century in a painting by Pieter Breugel, of a seeing-eye dog with his blind master.

Many archaeological sites have yielded burials of dogs and cats, including Egyptian mummified pets. Other sites show the pets buried with their masters. In fact, the oldest evidence of the domestication of the dog comes from a site in northern Israel, about 12,000 years old, with remains of an elderly woman and, beneath her left hand, those of a dog.

Dogs buried with their masters are also common in North American Indian sites, presumably hunters with their favorite dogs. If the humans could rise and speak, I am sure they would have endless tales of life with their dogs, many happy ones, some less so. Off Pisa in Italy, archaeologists found an underwater shipwreck site with the skeleton of a small dog right next to the outstretched hand of a man. The archaeologists speculate that the man had tried to save his dog, clutching his pet till the very end.

Following the recent terrorist attacks in New York, these close bonds between humans and animals have again become important. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website reports that they rescued about 200 dogs and cats after the terrorist bombings. Some of these were pets that had been left behind in buildings near the World Trade Center when residents had to evacuate quickly after the bombings. In those cases, pets and their humans were reunited. Other rescued pets have been put up for adoption. Their owners had left in the morning to go to work at the World Trade Center, never to return.

Turning the tables around, there were rescue dogs deployed to help find survivors. Survivors were found only on the first day but the canine teams continued for several days, with some of the dogs reportedly becoming quite depressed after the long futile search.

Many of the dogs suffered injuries while digging through the rubble. Again, humans came to the rescue. An appeal was sent out and people responded, donating booties, little shoes made for dogs.

Is it misplaced priority to spend so much energy on animals? Dr. Larry Hawk, who heads the ASPCA and coordinated the rescue activities in New York, told Time magazine that in caring more about animals, we become more humane. Hawk's sister was a stewardess on one of the planes hijacked by the terrorists.

A few days after the bombings a friend sent me a clipping about a Polish poet, Wislawa Szymborska. The article gave such a glowing review of her poetry that I did an Internet search to find samples of her poems. One of them could not have been more timely. Titled "A Cat in an Empty Apartment," it refers to a cat whose owner had died. Here's a particularly touching passage: "Something here does not begin/at its usual time./Something does not happen/quite as it should./Here someone was and was/then suddenly disappeared/ and now is stubbornly absent."

That stark passage says it all about how animals and humans have come to bond so intimately that our daily routines become inextricably intertwined, in life and beyond.

* * *

(Oct. 4 is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of all creatures great and small, and I guess that includes the pets' humans.)

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Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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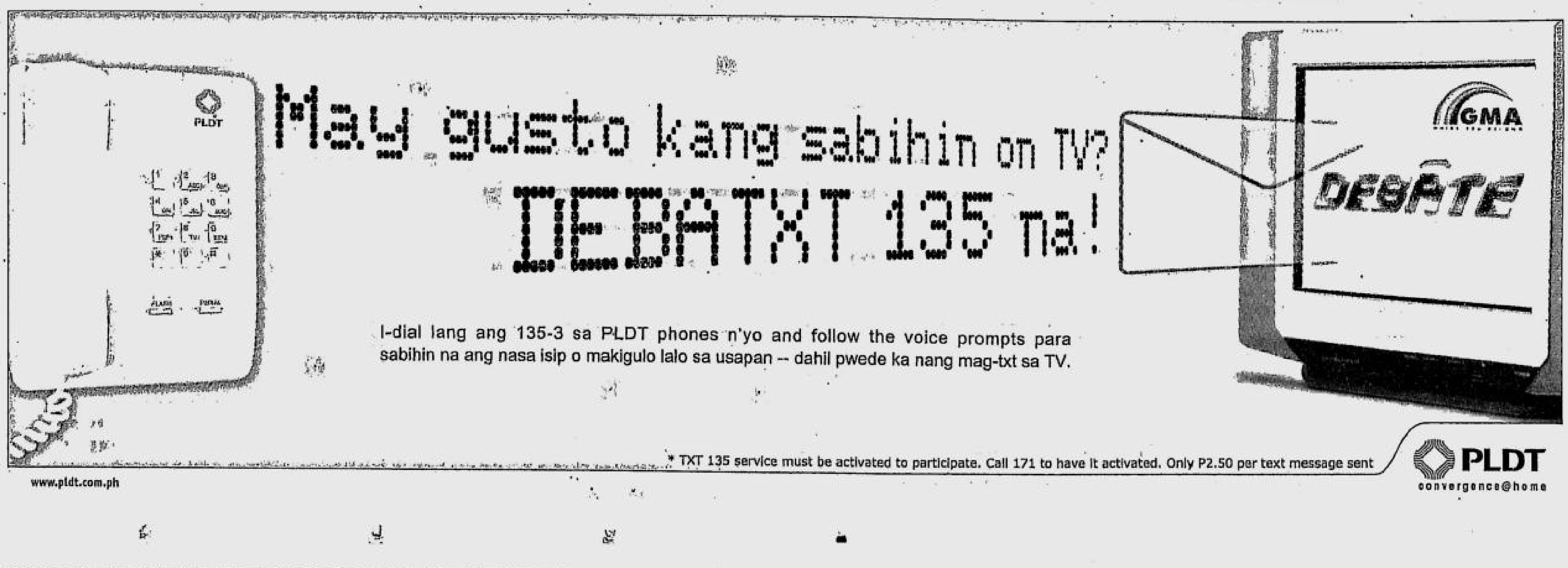

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

WORLDBRIEFS

Steel bars on cockpit doors

CHICAGO—American and United, the two biggest US airlines, said Tuesday that they will immediately begin installing steel bars on the cockpit doors of all their planes. Other airlines are set to do the same to protect pilots and calm nervous passengers. United spokesperson Joe Hopkins said the airline was already talking with suppliers and the bars should be on doors within a matter of weeks. "We've gotta do what we've gotta do right now," said Herb Hunter, a United pilot and spokesperson for the airline's branch of the Air Line Pilots Association. "It's a wonderful first step." President George W. Bush has recommended the improvements. A transportation department task force said Tuesday that airlines should begin installing stronger cockpit doors within 30 days. American, the largest US airline, said it had installed prototypes of the devices on an MD-80 and a Boeing 757, and would put them on all other aircraft types flown by American and TWA within 30 days. The devices are designed to ``immediately secure the cockpits while the FAA explores ways to further enhance cockpit security," the airline said. *AP*

First among missing declared dead

NEW YORK—It took a court to declare Iris Rothberg's son dead. She has no proof to show a medical examiner and no body to bury, just the promise of a wooden urn filled with soil from the World Trade Center where he worked. Three weeks after terrorists crashed jetliners into the Trade Center towers, Michael Rothberg and 40 co-workers from the bond trading firm Cantor Fitzgerald became the first among the more than 5,200 people missing in the wake of the attack to be declared dead by a court. Seven hundred of Cantor Fitzgerald's employees haven't been heard from since the morning of Sept. 11. All worked above the 100th floor of the first tower hit. "It's been three weeks and nobody from the firm got out," Iris Rothberg said Tuesday. She said her family asked a special state Supreme Court panel to clear the way for a death certificate. It's just a first step in dealing with a list of legal issues the family faces with her son's death, and it does nothing to lessen the pain. "The feeling is the same as the day it happened," she said. Once the health commissioner receives the court's report, he will issue a death certificate. The document, necessary for insurance benefits and to access bank accounts, normally take up to three years if there is no body, but officials have streamlined the process to help the families. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said Tuesday that 1,202 families had applied for death certificates for loved ones among the 5,219 people missing in the wreckage. *AP*

Pakistanis to blame

SRINAGAR, India—India's leader told US President George W. Bush in a letter sent Tuesday that Pakistanis were to blame for the worst attack in the Jammu-Kashmir state in two years. The death toll from Monday's car bombing outside the state legislature rose to 40 on Tuesday after police pulled seven burned bodies from the debris and two of the wounded died in hospital, police and hospital authorities said. Sixty people were wounded in the blast. In his letter, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee warned that India considered the bombing as a breach of national security. "There is a limit to the patience of the people of India," Vajpayee said. Vajpayee also suggested that Pakistan's willingness to provide a haven to militant groups were behind the attack. Pakistan denies that it harbors such groups. "Ironically, it comes only a day after the Pakistan president (Gen. Pervez Musharraf) announced on television that his country has no terrorist groups operating from its territory," Vajpayee told Bush. Vajpayee did not request specific action from Bush. *AP*

Infiltration, retaliation cloud Mideast peace bid

JERUSALEM—Armed Palestinians infiltrated into a Jewish settlement in Gaza and killed two Israelis, drawing Israeli retaliation and further clouding US efforts to calm the conflict.

Israeli forces fired shells and machine guns early Wednesday at Palestinian police posts near the settlement, Alei Sinai, Palestinians said.

The retaliation followed a special session of the Israeli Cabinet, which declared that the military would take whatever steps necessary to defend Israelis, indicating that a decision to withhold responses to Palestinian attacks, part of a week-old truce, had been canceled.

Palestinian security officials said Israeli gunboats fired shells at Palestinian police posts along the Gaza coast, while tanks fired shells and machine guns at inland outposts. The officials, requesting anonymity, said all seven police posts in the area were destroyed. Four Palestinian police were wounded, they said.

Also, the officials said Israeli tanks and bulldozers advanced several hundred meters into Palestinian territory in northern Gaza and began flattening farmland.

The Israeli military denied that gunboats were involved in the attack but would give no further details.

It was the first time Palestinians invaded a settlement and killed civilians since the current fighting broke out.

A statement after the Cabinet meeting said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was responsible for preventing attacks, though the militant Hamas took responsibility for the incursion.

Arafat's Palestinian Authority denounced the incursion, but Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon charged that Arafat had done nothing to stop militants from attacking Israelis, despite the latest truce. *AP*

ISRAELI Army officers look at the bodies of two Palestinian gunmen after they were shot and killed at the northern tip of the Gaza Strip.

AP

Bush backs Palestinian state

WASHINGTON—The United States made clear Tuesday that it foresees the creation of a Palestinian state as the outcome of any successful Mideast agreement.

"The idea of a Palestinian state has always been a part of a vision, so long as the right to an Israeli state is respected," President George W. Bush said.

But the first goal, the president said, is reducing the level of violence that has hit the region this year. "I fully understand that progress is made in centimeters in the Middle East," Bush said. "And we believe we're making some progress."

Peacemaking efforts have new urgency after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. An end to Israeli-Arab violence is a priority for the Arab states that Bush has asked to help in the US fight against terrorism, especially Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt.

Jordan's King Abdullah II, speaking in his country after meeting with Bush in Washington last week, said he told Bush that a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—under US sponsorship—could lessen terrorism worldwide, removing a key cause taken up by extremists.

"I told him that we need a speedy resolution to the Palestinian issue and a quick one, too, for the issue of Jerusalem," Abdullah said in remarks carried by the official Petra news agency.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer denied the president's position was anything new. US officials have always envisioned a Palestinian state and have been encouraging both sides to end violence, they said.

"We were hard at work before the 11th of September on trying to help in the region, and we are hard at work after the 11th of September," Powell said. *AP*

Saint Francis of Assisi College System

Celebrates Two Decades of Affordable Quality Education

20TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY - OCTOBER 4, 2001

Theme - Franciscan Education: Responding to the Challenges of Global Economy

MESSAGES

Greetings to Saint Francis of Assisi College System on the occasion of its 20th Founding Anniversary.

Our youth will enter a society where knowledge and creativity are the key to progress. In this age of information, teachers, students, and educators must pool their efforts together to ensure that knowledge is generated and shared.

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Mabuhay!

(Sgd) **RAUL S. ROCO**
Secretary
Department of Education
Culture and Sports

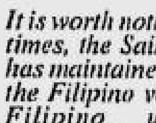
My warmest congratulations to your school, Saint Francis of Assisi College System, on the occasion of your 20th Founding Anniversary.

You have indeed played a very important role in the nation's vision to build upright citizens and future leaders of the country. Your two decades of quality education have produced students who are well-prepared to face the ever-increasing challenges of the times.

Continue to be mirrors to other educational institutions by preparing our youths for a deeper commitment to undertake mature roles, imbued with a strong sense o f purpose, responsibiltiy and genuine values.

Godspeed in the years ahead and success in all your endeavors.

(Sgd) **AMELIA A. BIGLETE**
Director IV
National Capital Region
Commission on Higher Education



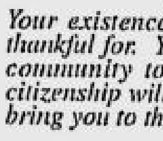
Our warmest congratulations to the administrators, faculty, students, parents and alumni of the Saint Francis of Assisi College System on the occasion of your 20th Founding Anniversary.

It is worth noting that in spite of the ever-changing times, the Saint Francis of Assisi College System has maintained and inculcated among its students the Filipino values and traditions that make the Filipino unique. The amalgamation of technological advancement and cultural heritage reinforces the idea that the past must be remembered to attain the promise of tomorrow. Let us work together towards the attainment of our goals while maintaining the rich cultural heritage of our past.

Again, congratulations and may the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi be in our hearts forever.

Good luck and MABUHAY!

(Sgd) **ESTER A. GARCIA**
Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education



My warmest greetings to Saint Francis of Assisi College System family -- the administrators, teachers, students and parents on its 20th Founding Anniversary.

Your existence for 20 years is something to be thankful for. Your goal in leading the Franciscan community toward assiduous and responsible citizenship will propel you to greater heights and bring you to the cutting edge of modern education.

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to all!

(Sgd) **CORAZON D. SANTIAGO**
Director IV
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The President's Message

We at Saint Francis of Assisi College System are truly happy and proud to have reached this important milestone in our school's history.

Twenty years ago,we put up a two-classroom Preparatory School with the hope and vision for it to grow and one day become a full-fledged institution of higher learning. We wanted our little school to help realize every parent's dream of sending their son or daughter to a school that offers both quality and affordable education, instills the right values, and brings out the best in them.

We named our school after Saint Francis of Assisi because he personified love, brotherhood, affirmation, peace, simplicity, and harmony with nature— virtues that can temper the rigid scholastic discipline and imbue it with a spiritual dimension. As a non-sectarian but Catholic-oriented school, therefore, we have promoted and pursued an education inspired by our Patron, Saint Francis.

Today, as we face the challenges of the global economy, our vision remains focused on giving our Franciscan students every opportunity to be globally competitive through our program of dynamic, affordable, quality education —even as we strengthen our capabilities and put up the infrastructures to be able to keep pace with the latest developments in E-learning and E-commerce.

This, for us, is the academic challenge of the New Millennium: Attain global competitiveness while keeping intact the noble values and traditions that have sustained our culture and made it distinctly and indigenously Filipino.

In closing, let me thank our parents and guardians, friends and benefactors who have kept faith with us through these many years; our very dedicated and indefatigable administrators, faculty and staff; our Patron, Saint Francis, through whose inspiration, guidance and intercession we are what we are today; and finally, our Lord, from whom all peace and goodness come.

Evangeline O. Oñas
EVANGELINE OÑAS-OROSCO
Chair and President

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Terrorist confesses Bin Laden aide recruited him

PARIS—A Muslim militant has told French investigators he was recruited by a senior aide to Osama bin Laden to supervise a suicide bombing mission against the US Embassy in Paris, judicial officials said Tuesday.

Djamel Beghal, 35, a French-Algerian, was placed under formal investigation Monday evening, a step short of formal charges, for alleged links to a terror network, the officials said on customary anonymity. He had been extradited Sunday from the United Arab Emirates, where he was arrested in late July with a false passport.

French anti-terrorism Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere traveled to Dubai late last month to question Beghal. Under interrogation on Sept. 22 and 23, Beghal outlined the plot for a suicide mission against the US Embassy in Paris, to be carried out before March of next year, the judicial officials said.

He spoke in great detail about being recruited at Bin Laden's home by a top aide to the Saudi multimillionaire, Abu Zubaydah, who told him "the time has come" for action.

He said an attack was also planned for an American cultural center, possibly the cultural section of the embassy—but confused embassy officials said Tuesday there exists no separate cultural center.

The embassy declined to comment on the alleged plot, other than to say: "This is part of an ongoing investigation by French authorities, in whom we have full confidence."

On Tuesday evening, Beghal's lawyer, Fabrice Dubest, said his client had denied receiving orders to attack the US Embassy or a cultural center. The judicial officials said they had seen accounts of Beghal's interrogation in Dubai, and believed them to be accounts from Monday's questioning.

Officials still take very seriously the account that Beghal gave in Dubai, they said.

According to the plan, Beghal told the judge then, another man—Nizar Trabelsi, a Tunisian who was arrested Sept. 13 in Belgium—was to penetrate the embassy, strapped with explosives. Also, a minivan packed with explosives was to explode outside the cultural section, he said.

Beghal said he had signed a "pact" with Abu Zubaydah, Bin Laden's deputy, in March in Afghanistan, where he spent the period from November 2000 to July 2001 at a training camp of al-Qaida, Bin Laden's organization. "al-Qaida had deposited money for the operation in a Moroccan bank account," he said.

The meeting with Abu Zubaydah took place in Bin Laden's home, Beghal told investigators in Dubai, according to the officials. But he said he never met Bin Laden himself.

Beghal's job in the plot, he told investigators, was to gather information and study the embassy's security plans.

Officials in Dubai obtained Beghal's confession in part, French authorities say, by calling in religious leaders to convince him that the right thing to do was reveal the plot.

Beghal also said in Dubai he had recruited others for Bin Laden's network in Britain, where he frequented mosques in London and in Leicester. But he said in Dubai, according to the judicial officials who paraphrased his words, that he has "renounced the cause. It is not true religion. I was deceived."

Beghal was the second person extradited to France in two days in connection with the plot against US interests. Kamel Daoudi, 27, also a French-Algerian, was extradited from Britain on Saturday. Radio reports have said the two were related.

An investigation into the plot was opened in France on Sept. 10—a day before the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Bruguiere traveled last week to the United Arab Emirates to question Beghal.

Authorities have tied Beghal to others arrested in the Netherlands, where four people have been arrested, and in Belgium, where two arrests were made, one of them Trabelsi.

In addition, six Algerians arrested in Spain and ordered held without bail Friday had direct links with others arrested in Europe in connection with the plot to attack US interests on the continent, Spanish officials said. *AP*

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THE GOOD NEWS

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ISAIAH 42:1-5 — You will receive your reading in a moment.

Australia warns of terror strikes

CANBERRA—Government ministers warned Wednesday that Australia was vulnerable to terrorism and further attacks around the world were expected in coming months.

Prime Minister John Howard told Sydney radio station 2UE that Australia and all Western countries were now more prone to terrorism after hijackers on Sept. 11 crashed planes into the Pentagon in Washington and the World Trade Center in New York.

The government on Tuesday announced a package of anti-terrorist measures that included placing armed guards randomly on domestic and international flights, strengthening airplane cockpits, increasing baggage X-ray checks and doubling of military counter-terrorist capabilities.

Proposed new laws would increase powers for the domestic security agency and the Australian Secret Intelligence Organization (ASIO). Terrorist acts would be punishable with a maximum jail term of life imprisonment and the government would be given expanded power to seize terrorists' assets. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 4, 2001
26th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: **Ne 8:1-4, 5-6, 7-12**
Gospel: **Lk 10:1-12**

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place, where he himself was to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Set off without purse or bag or sandals; and do not stop at the homes of those you know.

Whatever house you enter, first bless them saying: 'Peace to this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, the peace shall rest upon that person. But if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking at their table, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'

But in any town where you are not welcome, go to the marketplace and proclaim: 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off and leave with you. But know and be sure that the kingdom of God had come to you.' I tell you that on the Judgment Day it will be better for Sodom than for this town."

Commentary:

As Jesus travels to Jerusalem after his Galilean ministry, he sends the seventy disciples to places where he would visit. Luke gives us an impression that he is with a big group and that as he moves he will be dropping by many places, which may not just be along the way. Imagine the impact of this mobilization. Without carrying anything, the disciples will depend on people who welcome them for their subsistence. Their mission is simple: to cure the sick and to proclaim the kingdom of God. As conversion is the expected response of their mission, the Christian missionaries are asked to be simple in their lifestyle, devoid of sophistication, bringing nothing but themselves, their healing power and their message.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—**Conspiracy**—Conspiracy exists when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of a felony and decide to commit it. In determining the existence of conspiracy, it is not necessary to show that all the conspirators actually hit and killed the victim. What is important is that all participants performed specific acts with such closeness and coordination as to indicate a common purpose or design to bring about the death of the victim. The agreement may be deduced from the manner in which the offense was committed. In this case, all of the accused-appellants came together at the place where the victim was tethering his carabao; the three were present at the time of the attack on the victim; they were all armed; none of them made any effort to stop the attack on the deceased; and all three of them fled together after attaining their purpose. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Amazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606 and 138607, January 16, 2001]

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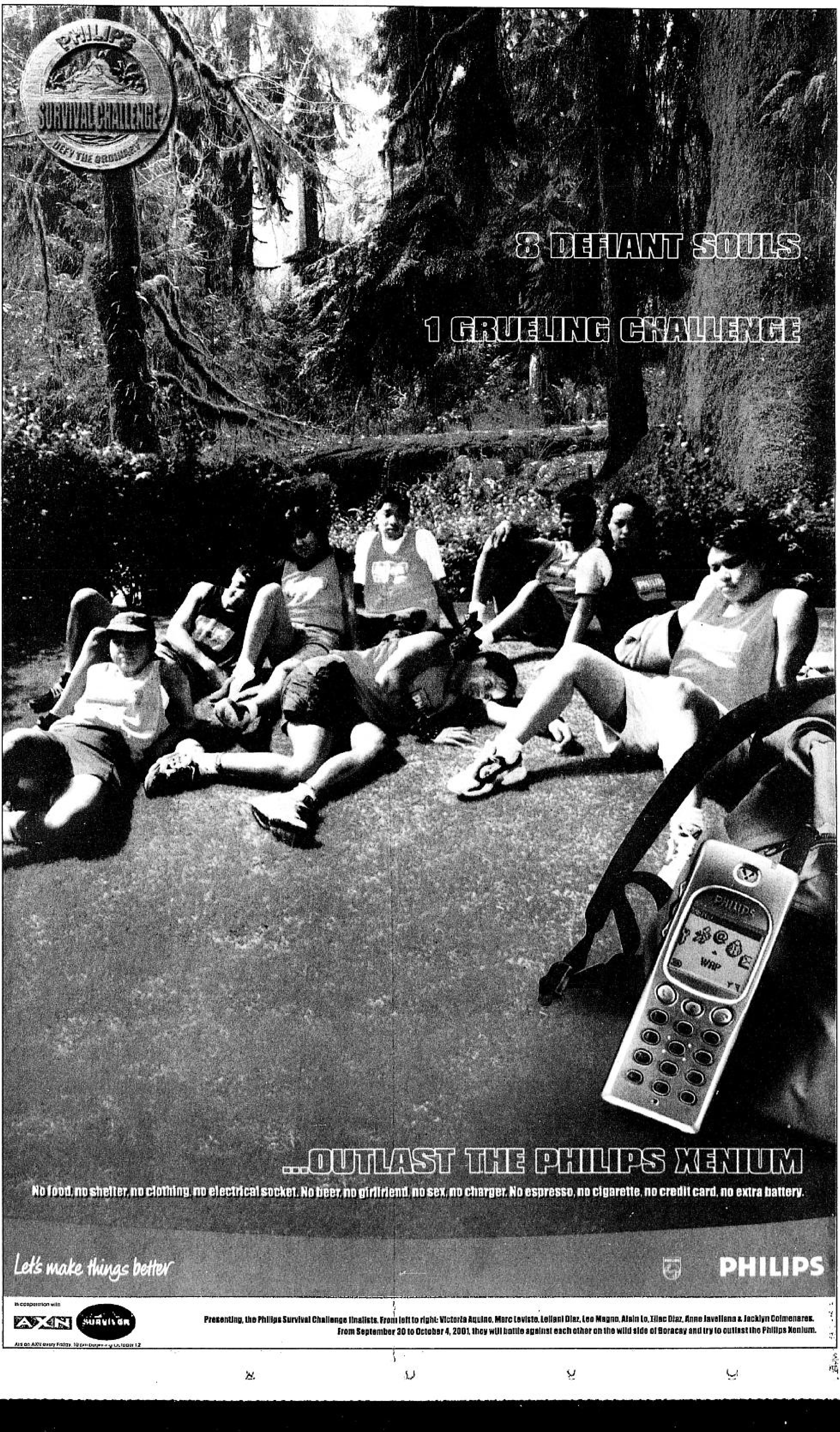

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			SMB-RMN Oktoberfest Street Parties Oktoberfest @ The Hills SMB Oktoberfest Kick-Off Party	Butuan City & Dumaguete City Cebu Plaza, Cebu City Cagayan de Oro City
13	SMB-103.5 KLite and 99.5 RT Oktoberfest Street Parties	Greenbelt Mall, Makati City	SMB-RMN Oktoberfest Street Parties SMB-ABS-CBN Bacolod Oktoberfest SMB Oktoberfest at Duka Bay	Gen. Santos City & Naga City Reclamation Center, Bacolod City Cagayan de Oro City
17			SMB-ABS-CBN Davao Oktoberfest Street Parties	Jack's Ridge, Davao City
19	SMB-89.9 DWTM Oktoberfest Street Parties	Sta. Lucia East, Cainta	SMB Oktoberfest Night at Marvilla SMB-ABS-CBN Iloilo Oktoberfest Street Parties	Cagayan de Oro Marina Restaurant, Parking Lot Iloilo City
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20			SMB-RMN Oktoberfest Street Parties SMB Oktoberfest at Duka Bay SMB Oktoberfest Street Party	Baguio City Cagayan de Oro City Batangas City
24	SMB-Citylite 88.3 Oktoberfest Street Party	El Pueblo Square, Ortigas Center	SMB-ABS-CBN Cebu SMB-RMN Oktoberfest Street Parties	Harrison Park, Cebu City Dagupan City, Iloilo City Cagayan de Oro City
26	SMB Oktoberfest Closing Party Finals of "Sinong Mabilis Sa Beer" SMB-Drinking Contest	Tomas Morato, Quezon City	SMB Oktoberfest-Tigtigan SMB Oktoberfest at Balanga	Angeles City, Pampanga Balanga, Bataan

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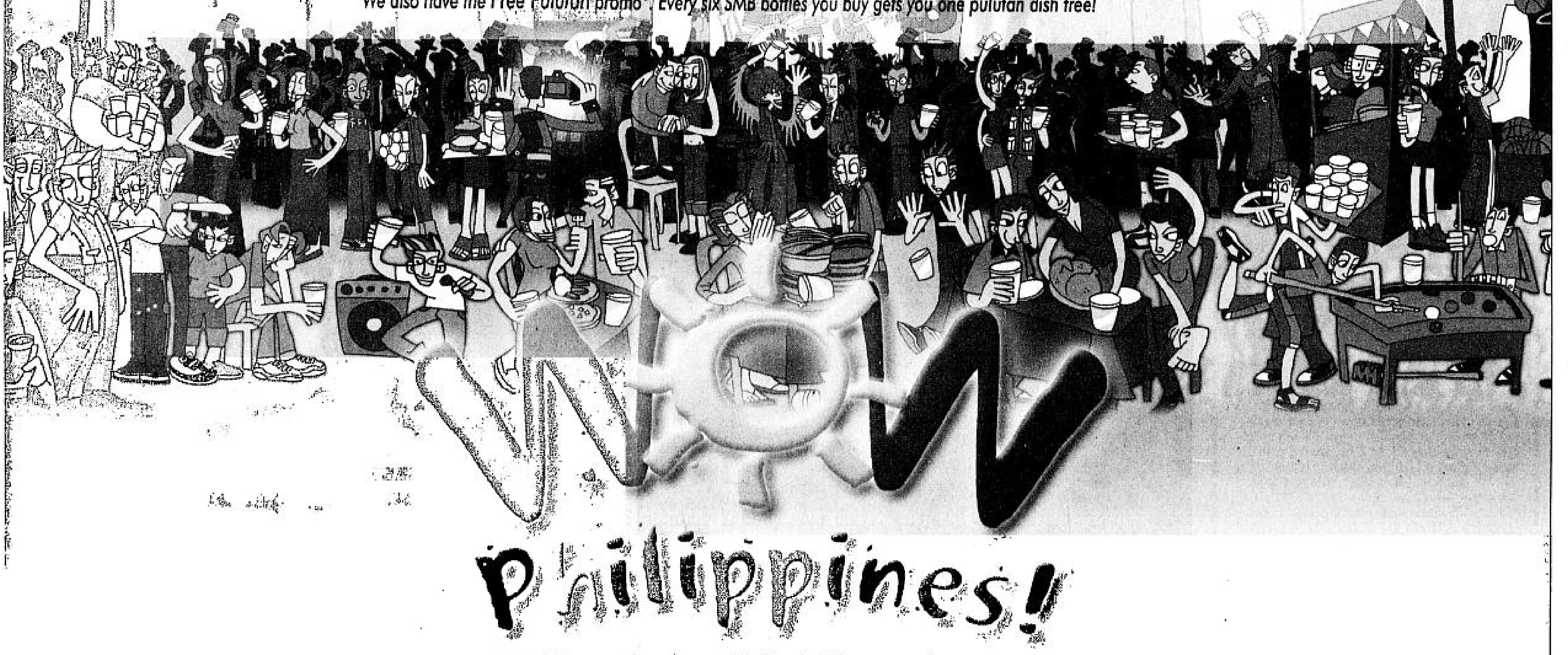

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GMA sends troops back to Mindoro

By Juliet J. Labog
and Joel J. Jabal
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN CITY—Amidst demands by human rights groups for a stop to military operations in Oriental Mindoro, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the military to send back its troops to check communist insurgency in the province.

Ms Macapagal ordered the redeployment of soldiers during her first visit as President to Gloria town and the province where she also received 29 rebel returnees.

In her speech, the President said the strongest presence of communist rebels could be found in Oriental Mindoro.

"That's why last May, I told (Armed Forced Chief of Staff General Diomedio) Villanueva and (2nd infantry division chief) Gen. Jack Ligot that we should bring our soldiers back here in Oriental Mindoro," she said.

But the President stressed the deployment of soldiers was not the final solution to insurgency, which she said was rooted in poverty in the countryside.

She said it could be solved by the "cooperation of the civil government" and pro-poor projects like agrarian reform, power supply and livelihood.

She released a total of P25 million for agriculture-related projects and a dike.

"You can use the amount in whatever way you want. You can use it to build farm-to-market roads or for a micro-credit program," Ms Macapagal said in separate speeches in Gloria and in this city.

She was referring to the P1 million received by each of the 14 towns and Calapan for agricultural projects.

Ms Macapagal also ordered the release of P10 million for the repair of the Managpi protection dike here.

The dike prevents the Bucayao River from overflowing and flooding more than 10 city villages.

The President also distributed 287 hectares of land to some 190 farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

She "switched on" the power for six barangays in Gloria and declared several others as "Agrarian Reform Communities" of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Some 10,000 people witnessed the presidential visit.

The threat of militant groups to launch protest rallies did not materialize as most of the leaders of the human rights organizations were busy attending to new cases of human rights violations allegedly committed by Army soldiers here.

Irene Cuasay, secretary general of Karapatan-Mindoro Oriental, said she had to rush to Roxas town to check on the whereabouts of two missing Mangyans belonging to the Hanunuo tribe.

"We are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a stop to military operations in Mindoro and other provinces in the Southern Tagalog," Cuasay said.

"These operations have caused untold sufferings to the poor farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous people," she added.

She said they would urge the President to "produce the missing Mangyans and activists" believed to be in Army custody.

Human rights workers have documented cases of forced evacuation, food blockade, harassment of activists, illegal arrest and seizure and other forms of human rights abuses, including physical and psychological torture, she said.

The Southern Luzon Command started the troop buildup in Oriental Mindoro shortly after the release of long-time NPA captive Maj. Noel Buan, former intelligence officer of the Southern Luzon Command.

Buan was held captive in the mountains of Mansalay where he was released in April.

Convicted terrorist arrested in Davao in '95

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CONVICTED terrorist Nedal (Mohammed Sadeek) Odeh (right) and brothers Muhammad and Ahmad Jubran are shown in file photo shortly after their arrest on April 21, 1995 in Davao City for alleged involvement in terroristic activities in Mindanao. PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAVAO CITY—Convicted international terrorist Jordanian Mohammed Sadeek Odeh, whose photo appeared in the INQUIRER on Monday, stayed in this city and was even arrested on April 21, 1995.

Odeh, then carrying the name of Nedal Odeh, was accused of being involved in a string of terrorist activities in Mindanao, including the bombing of the San Pedro Cathedral in 1993.

Odeh was arrested together with brothers Ahmad and Muhammad Jubran and two Filipino accomplices, Ismael Nakan and Earl Leonardo Espina, by members of the Regional Intelligence Group.

All of them denied that they were terrorists and insisted that the police planted the firearms and explosives found in their possession.

They also branded their arrest as illegal since they were not presented any warrant when they were apprehended and held for four days.

Police claimed to have recovered timing and firing devices from Odeh when he was arrested from his house in Marfori II Heights here.

The Jubrans were picked up inside the Crescent Pharmacy, which they owned, along Quezon Boulevard. The brothers, as well as the two Filipinos, also allegedly yielded firearms, ammunition and bomb devices.

They were detained at the city jail in Maa District.

Immediately after they were presented to media, Muslim groups in the city claimed that the three Jordanians were not terrorists, but were good Muslims who taught Islamic values and principles in the communities.

Odeh, who was married to Filipina Aisah Vergara, was at that time a fourth year medical student at the Davao Medical School Foundation.

The five suspects were charged before four Regional Trial Courts here—RTC Branches 9, 10, 15 and 17—with illegal possession of firearms, explosives and ammunition.

After four days of detention, the three Jordanians posted bail.

The foreigners then employed the services of Datu Firdausi Abbas, an international lawyer and then chair of the Bangsamoro Islamic Party.

Abbas helped file counter-charges before the Commission on Human Rights against 18 policemen, including former police regional director Chief Supt. Edgar Galvante, deputy regional police chief for intelligence Supt. Conrado Miñano, and RIG chief Senior Insp. Ferdinand Garay.

The charges involved kidnapping, robbery, coercion, grave threats, arbitrary detention and physical injuries.

The Jordanians said they were not told that

CONVICTED/P.12

RP groups joining global peace coalition

ANGELES CITY—The Global Coalition for World Peace is taking shape and groups based in the Philippines are joining it.

The coalition, initiated last week to "contribute to the quest for global peace to avert a world war," includes groups in the United States and Europe, according to University of the Philippines Prof. Roland Simbulan.

One of the coalition's members is the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition (NFPC), which Simbulan chairs.

He said the NFPC's allies were also expected to join the coalition.

The peace coalition's members, mostly belonging to non-government groups, are already into anti-war protests in their countries, he said.

In a message he e-mailed to the INQUIRER, Simbulan explained that a global coalition for world peace was necessary because the US has "blindly stooped to the level of the perpetrators (of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks)."

This has "more dangerous implications to the world," he said, adding that the US had acted in the same way several times in the past.

He cited the indiscriminate carpet-bombing by the US of Vietnam from 1965 to 1975 and of Baghdad in Iran in 1991, and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan during World War II.

If the US retaliates in this manner, Simbulan said "Osama bin Laden and his friends will only be too happy because it will solidify and galvanize the resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East and elsewhere around the world to create more enemies for the US."

The policies of the US in the Middle East and elsewhere—which he called "unilateral and interventionist"—have created a strong backlash of dedicated and fanatical enemies.

The US, he stressed, was now experiencing the same agony it inflicted on civilians of Vietnam, Iraq, Libya, Palestine and Afghanistan.

Simbulan said a coalition for peace was likewise vital because US President George Bush's recent statements had been "conditioning the American people, the entire Western Alliance and their allies toward global warfare against all perceived enemies of the US."

Another reason, he noted, was the "tempting option" for the US to go to war "as a way out of its current economic recession, by means of revitalized weapons and armaments industry." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov says law enforcers aiding kidnap gangs

KIDAPAWAN CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol yesterday said he had received intelligence reports that local law enforcers are supporting kidnap-for-ransom groups in Central Mindanao.

Law enforcers suspected of protecting kidnapping syndicates should be immediately relieved, he said, adding that their continued stay in the service eroded public confidence in the authorities' ability to bring suspected kidnappers to court.

But the governor, in an interview with radio dxND, said the alleged "coddlers" were not from Central Mindanao.

"There is a network of kidnappers operating in South-Central Mindanao areas and they operate with notorious police members as well as rebels."

He said he had repeatedly asked Congress to pass resolutions that will consider ransom payment and negotiation with kidnappers as heinous crimes.

"The payment of ransom should be made a criminal act," he said. This is the only way to stop kidnapping in the country, he said.

Piñol also said a special prosecution team and a special court should be organized to handle kidnapping cases.

He cited the case of a judge who allegedly feared for his life if he issued a warrant of arrest against the two sons of Mayor Annie Muntawal of Pagagawan and Dyanggo Muntawal of Pagalungan, both of Maguindanao.

The young Muntawals were implicated in the kidnapping of an official of China Electric Power Import-Export Inc., Zhang Zhongquiang.

The kidnap gang executed Zhongquiang and Xue Xing while another kidnap victim, Wang Li, escaped when government forces were closing in on the gang's hideout in Sultan Kudarat province.

Zhongquiang's brother Zhongli is still being held captive. *Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A Statement from
worldwideweb® corporation

Worldwideweb Corporation would like to set the record straight in connection with a story published in a nationally circulated daily newspaper on September 29, 2001, concerning a raid conducted on the offices of two Internet service providers by the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

Worldwideweb Corporation is not connected with Planet Internet Corporation and Message One International Corporation, a former sub-lessee of Worldwideweb Corporation.

Worldwideweb Corporation operates solely as a provider of value-added Internet services to the general public under a license from the National Telecommunications Commission. Worldwideweb Corporation's Network Operating Center maintains no technical interface with Planet Internet Corporation and its reseller, Message One International Corporation. Worldwideweb Corporation is NOT engaged in any illegal services related to international calls and/or unauthorized Internet access.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/04/01

ROUNDUP

Higher realty taxes

ROXAS CITY—Mayors of the 16 towns in Capiz have agreed to increase real property tax collection by 50 percent starting next year. The move was prompted by an appeal of provincial treasurer Gualberto Bernas IV in support of the tax reform agenda of Gov. Vicente Bermejo. In a recent meeting presided by Panay Mayor Felipe Barredo, the local chief executives also agreed to conduct a simultaneous sale of delinquent real properties, impose administrative sanctions on treasurers who fail to efficiently collect taxes, and computerize the collection and billing of taxes.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Tricycle phaseout

ROXAS CITY—The tricycle could soon be a thing of the past as a mode of transportation here. City engineer Danilo Tumlos said the vehicles would be banished off the major roads to ease the worsening traffic congestion, but drivers will be given ample time to adjust before the phase-out. He said tricycles would eventually have to give way to public utility jeepneys.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Only 'small fry' caught

ROXAS CITY—The head of the Provincial Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force admitted that those arrested in the war against drugs in Capiz were "all small fry." Supt. Arthur Masungsong, speaking before students of the Cabug-Cabug National High School in President Roxas town on Sept. 28, said they have yet to catch the "big fish" in their campaign against illegal drugs in the province. Masungsong said that since police operations were intensified in June, 20 suspected drug pushers and users have been arrested, the highest number recorded in four months.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Top CSC office

DAVAO CITY—For the third time, the Civil Service Commission's Southern Mindanao office here was named the most outstanding office in the delivery of public service. It ranked second in 1998 and stayed on top for the next two years and is now placed in the Hall of Fame. The "Gawad Karangalan Bilang Katangi-tanging Tanggapan" was presented to the regional office during the closing ceremony of the 101st foundation anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service on Thursday last week.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Teacher's remains found

COTABATO CITY—Police in Maguindanao recovered the remains of an elementary schoolteacher and his uncle who were killed while on their way to this city. The bodies of Ryan Delaon, 24, of South Upi, Maguindanao and his uncle, Cecilio Sy, were found at the foot of an 80-foot cliff in Sitio Tenorio, Barangay Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat town. Senior Insp. Fatima Malao, chief of the Datu Odin Sinsuat police, said a farmer told police that he saw two men shoot at the victims. The witness said the bodies were dumped off the cliff.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Baguio radioman dies

BAGUIO CITY—Eduardo Aguilar, a veteran broadcaster and a former city councilor, died of cirrhosis last Sept. 28. He was 60. Aguilar was a former president of the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas Baguio-Benguet chapter. He was manager of dzBS-RPN 9 before he was elected city councilor.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

150 casuals laid off

MABALACAT, Pampanga—At least 150 casual employees of the municipal hall here were laid off on Monday. Municipal officials said the layoff was made in accordance with a provision of the Local Government Code stating that only 45 percent of the town's annual budget must be used for salaries and other financial benefits of local government officials and workers.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Rampant child labor

LEGAZPI CITY—A Department of Labor and Employment study on child labor in Bicol noted that in certain far-flung villages, one can seldom find teenage girls, even those as young as 12 years old. Most of the girls are out of town working as domestic workers, the study claimed. Some of them land in "red-light" districts in Cavite, Baguio City, Pampanga and Metro Manila. Concerned individuals have appealed to government officials to do something about the situation.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Comelec resets ARMM poll deadline

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections, acting on petitions filed by political parties, has extended to Oct. 9 the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for the Nov. 26 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Lawyer Clarita Callar, Comelec director for Central Mindanao, said the poll body approved Tuesday night Resolution 4597 to move the deadline from Oct. 2 to Oct. 9.

Callar said the Comelec would use computerized counting machines only in selected areas in the region, mainly because of the lack of equipment.

Voters from the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan, and Marawi City will choose a governor, vice governor and 23 regional legislators.

Six persons have so far been aspiring for governor, hoping to take the place of Nur Misuari. The candidates are residing in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Marawi.

Candidates from Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan are to file their certificates before the Comelec-Western Mindanao in Zamboanga City.

Callar said those who have filed their candidacies for governor were Ahmad Darping Noh (Peoples Leadership Party), former Lanao del Sur Gov. Mahid Mutilan (Ompia Party), former Mayor Ibrahim Toto Paglas (Ind.), Saidona Pendatun (Kampi), former Maguindanao Gov. Sanggacala Baraguir, and Elsie Orejodos, defeated mayoral aspirant in Cotabato City.

In the vice gubernatorial race, the aspirants are former ARMM Education Secretary Bai Sandra Sema (Lakas), former ARMM Vice Gov. Benjamin Loong (Ind), Shiek Al-Amman Usman (Ind.), Ali Laguindab (Lakas) and Hadji Nor Abdul Basit (Ind.).

Sources from the ruling Lakas-NUCD party said Malacañang would anoint Parouk Hussin, Moro National Liberation Front deputy chief for foreign affairs and leader of MNLF's Council of 15, as the administration's gubernatorial candidate.

Hussin's running mate is Bai Sandra Sema, wife of MNLF secretary general and Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Those aspiring for membership in the Regional Legislative Assembly representing Maguindanao's first district are Odin Abdulla, Bobby Aragasi, Ali Balabagan, Guiameron Bedu, Abdullah Ibrahim, Bai Rahma Guiani-Ross, Ronnie Sinsuat, Ibrahim Yusoph, Jackson Bandila, Zaida Tomawis, Harris Mastura and former Mayor Michael Sinsuat of Upi.

For Maguindanao's second district: Hofer Ampatuan, Umbra Datumanong, Nurodin Mamaluba, Puwa Mangudadatu, Bai Namraida Matalam, Suharto Midtimbang, Shajid Pendatun, Mastor Salendab and Jerry Sangkigay.

Paglas said he was invited to have an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo after Malacañang learned that he had filed his candidacy.

"I don't exactly know why I was invited, I am hoping to be anointed as the official administration candidate," Paglas said. "If it won't happen, I will continue my candidacy just the same."

The President had earlier said here that the administration candidate in the gubernatorial race should be chosen after thorough consultation and selection processes.

The MNLF-Misuari faction, which rules the four-province ARMM, did not field any candidate. It maintained that the election was a violation of the 1996 peace accord between the MNLF, the government and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The MNLF is pushing for the postponement of the Nov. 26 balloting.

Eight Muslim representatives have filed a bill in Congress seeking to postpone the ARMM polls until May 2002 to hold it simultaneously with the barangay elections.

Senate President Franklin Drilon has opposed any move to postpone the ARMM elections.

In a statement, Drilon said this would prolong the terms of overstaying officials.

He said no bill has been filed in the Senate proposing any postponement of the ARMM elections.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, in a letter to the Senate, said the Comelec has started pre-election activities, like the recycling of ballot boxes, allocating election forms and paraphernalia, and the bidding of supplies.

Drilon said Benipayo was concerned that public funds will be wasted and the preparations rendered useless if Congress again postpones the ARMM elections. ***With a report from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ILOCOS SUR CAPITOL

ILOCANOS gather in front of the Ilocos Sur provincial capitol to honor former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's role in the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.
PHOTOS BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Ilocanos recall Chavit exposé in rally

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—More than 700 supporters of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson gathered in front of the provincial capitol here on Wednesday to celebrate the first anniversary of his exposé that led to the downfall of his erstwhile friend, former President Joseph Estrada.

"Our former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson made a great achievement not only for the province but the whole country as he was instrumental in the ouster of the former national leadership," Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano told the INQUIRER.

Singson, however, failed to attend the gathering as he left for the United States last Sunday.

But as the pro-Singson crowd was staging the program to honor Singson, another rally, this time spearheaded by those opposing Singson, was held about 100 meters away.

It was on Oct. 3 last year when Singson's vehicle was stopped by policemen in Ermita, Manila, for an alleged traffic infraction.

But Singson refused to step out of his vehicle until Ilocos Sur mayors and reporters were there.

Singson, who came from a meeting with Ilocos Sur mayors at the Holiday Inn Manila, said he believed the incident was an attempt on his life.

That incident sparked Singson's exposé against Estrada's alleged links to jueteng and tobacco tax kickbacks made before separate committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The program honoring Singson, which was led by provincial officials, students and residents, started with a Thanksgiving Mass.

Pro-Singson ralliers held placards like "Bannuar ti Ilocos Sur Ama ti RA 7171 (Hero of Ilocos Sur Father of RA 7171)," "Agbiag ti bannuar ti Ilocos Sur (Long live the hero of Ilocos Sur)."

NOON: ANG BAYANI IBINUBUWIS ANG BUHAY PARA SA BAYAN
NGAYON: ANG BAYANI NINANAKAW ANG BUWIS NG BAYAN.-SISA
3 BILLION
NAPUNTA!
C.O.A.

ANTI-SINGSON groups hold their own rally against alleged corruption in the province.

But the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) led multisectoral groups in the other rally to denounce the alleged graft and corruption in the province and to call for reforms.

Around 500 people joined the anti-Singson rally staged at the northeast portion of the capitol.

"Despite what former Governor Singson had said about fighting corruption and supporting reforms . . ., he had not done this in his own province as corruption continues," said Nestor Seguismundo, Sisa president.

They carried placards and streamers saying, *"Noon: Ang bayani ibinubuwis ang buhay para sa bayan. Ngayon: Ang bayani ninanakaw ang buwis ng bayan* (Then: The hero offers his life for the country. Now: The hero steals the country's taxes)" and *"P3 billion mula sa RA 7171 saan napunta* (Where did the P3 billion from RA 7171 go)?"

The groups denounced the supposed massive corruption in the provincial government.

"We believe that the substantial progress of Ilocos Sur would have been achieved had the billions of pesos received by the provincial government been honestly and properly used," they said.

The protesters claimed that the P215.2 million recently released by President Macapagal-Arroyo from the funds of RA 7171 or the tobacco excise tax law was "misused and fraudulently spent."

"(It resulted in) the dismal failure of the provincial government in its primary duty to look after the welfare of the people during the height of the crisis brought about by Typhoon 'Feria'," they said.

But Savellano dismissed the allegations.

"We have used the funds in implementing provincial programs. The bad thing is that our critics could not see it," he said. "The other rally was simply politically motivated, with losing politicians behind them (protesters)."

"Former Gov. Chavit Singson did a heroic act and the accusations against him are yet to be proven," said Councilor Robert Tudayan, Ilocos Sur chapter president of the Philippine Councilors League.

DENR chief cites gains of farmers from CARP

ANGELES CITY—Agrarian reform beneficiaries enjoyed an 80-percent increase in profit during the 14 years that government implemented the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said.

Alvarez cited the results of a recent World Bank-funded study to disprove criticisms from leftist groups.

The study, he said, showed that the CARP also led to higher investments in farming and resulted in improved education as well as better household welfare and productivity from 1985 to 1999.

The profit increase was "due largely" to increased use of high-yielding seed varieties, production inputs and improved rural infrastructure that were part of the program's support services to farmers, he pointed out.

"All these show that while CARP is not the perfect social reform instrument, it provides the powerful strategic instrument to uplift the social well-being of the underclass in the countryside, it has been a massive resource or a cash transfer program," he said.

Alvarez's statements appeared in papers that the College Assurance Plan compiled for the Second Annual Diosdado Macapagal Symposium on social reform.

The environment secretary admitted, though, that the program has remained unfinished, bogged down by reduced funds, resistance by landowners, spurious land titles or devolution.

Only 66 percent or 5.3 million of the 8 million hectares targeted under the CARP were distributed, he said.

In the case of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, at least 1.3 million hectares of public alienable and disposable lands still have to be transferred to landless farmers.

For the Department of Agrarian Reform, the aim is to give out 1.2 million hectares of private agricultural land, mainly sugar, coconut and commercial farms.

The "major bottleneck" in the implementation of the CARP by past administrations was budget cuts by Congress.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, setting a goal of 200,000 hectares of private land to be distributed yearly, has proposed a P5.6-billion budget for land acquisition and credit. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Convicted . . . (From page 11)

they were under arrest, and that their captors did not even identify themselves as policemen.

They said they realized that it was the police that had taken them only when they were presented before the prosecutor's office.

They said they did not know where they were held because they were blindfolded. They were handcuffed and their feet were bound, they added.

Odeh claimed that he lost P5,000 while Ahmad said he lost around P150,000 to policemen who took a check and his five automated teller machine (ATM) cards. He said the police hit him in the head to force him to reveal the personal identification numbers of his ATM cards.

All three foreigners claimed their personal belongings, such as shoes and wristwatches, were taken from them.

They said they could not have been involved in the San Pedro Cathedral bombing because they went to Manila from Dec. 15 to early January to renew their visas.

The police denied the foreigners' accusations.

In 1997, all of the suspects were acquitted. The judges handling their cases ruled that the suspects were illegally arrested and declared the evidence against them as inadmissible in court.

The foreigners were reported to have left the city sometime in 1997.

The cases against the policemen are still pending in court.

A year later, Odeh was again suspected to have planned and trained suicide bombers who attacked the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, on Aug. 7, 1998.

The attack, which was executed simultaneously with the Dar es Salaam bombing, resulted in 200 civilian deaths and the wounding of close to 5,000 people.

Reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorist Task Force said Odeh received terrorist training in Afghanistan before he joined Bin Laden's organization in 1992.

Odeh's first assignment was in Somalia when he reportedly trained mujahedin fighters who killed 18 American soldiers.

A day before the Aug. 7, 1998 bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi, Odeh fled to Pakistan, where he was arrested by Pakistani intelligence agents. He was later deported to the United States to stand trial.

He was convicted and is now serving a life sentence for the Nairobi bombings.

Remains of teacher found

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The decomposing body of a male teacher was found on Tuesday at Barangay West Balabag, Valencia town, about nine kilometers west of this city.

A farmer was plowing his field about 8 a.m. when he discovered the body of Naido Chirivias, 38, a teacher at the West City Elementary School (WCES) in Dumaguete.

Chirivias, who was only wearing a pair of short pants, had at least seven stab wounds. Police said Chirivias could have been killed on Monday night, noting that his body was already in a state of decomposition.

Police investigators in Valencia were still trying to establish the identities of the suspects. Their counterparts in Dumaguete recovered Chirivias' motorcycle, a bloodied gray T-shirt with four holes in it and a jacket.

The motorcycle was stripped of its plate number and registration papers, but policemen were able to trace it to Chirivias because his name was found under the seat.

News of Chirivias' death spread gloom to everyone at the WCES.

"The teachers were so depressed. We could not anymore hold classes. The children were crying. The school was lifeless today. We really felt the loss of Mr. Chirivias," said Alice Pinero, a fellow teacher.

Pinero said Chirivias was last seen in the school on Monday.

"He was a good man and was very dependable. Whenever he would be absent, he would send a text message to the principal," she said.

Chirivias failed to show up on Tuesday. Efforts to contact him through text messaging proved fruitless. Calls to his cellular phone were also unanswered.

"We were informed by a policeman about 9 a.m. that his motorcycle was found. Some teachers were asked to identify it. It was his," Pinero said.

Mike Arroyo again in hot water

(From page A1)

Lacson in his speech were similar to those in the supposed draft speech of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., copies of which were leaked to the media on Monday. Pimentel has denied being the author of the draft speech or that he intended to deliver it.

In his speech, Lacson accused Arroyo of making the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office a "cash cow," particularly in funding the election campaign of four of the administration's senatorial candidates.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto has begun a preliminary inquiry on the alleged misuse of PCSO funds during the last election at Arroyo's behest.

However, Arroyo himself is not part of the inquiry because he is a private citizen, Desierto told reporters yesterday.

Lacson named former Sen. Ernesto Herrera and former Bulacan Gov. Robert Pagdanganan as among the four People Power Coalition candidates who benefited from a supposed P250-million media campaign.

The draft speech named the other two as Senators Joker Arroyo and Juan Flavier.

"In the course of the campaign, the four beneficiary-candidates were regularly briefed and updated on the media campaign," Lacson said, adding that "they were made to know who the godfather was—the Honorable Miguel Tuason Arroyo."

He named former PCSO media consultant Robert Rivero as his "informant" on the issue, and said the latter would soon come out of hiding to tell all he knew.

But in a television interview aired last night, Bunye said it was "very obvious" that this was Lacson's "way of diverting attention from himself and shifting the heat to another public figure, who unfortunately is treated as an easy target by some quarters."

"Another thing we should be wary about is that the principal witness of Senator Lacson is this Robert Rivero, who very conveniently happens to be married to a member of (Lacson's) staff," she said.

Bunye also said the Arroyo camp was studying its options, including legal action against those who made the "false accusations" against the First Gentleman.

Advertising budget

Lacson claimed that with Arroyo's prodding, the PCSO approved the release of P250 million as advertising budget.

"On paper, the money was to be used to air radio spots to promote the charities of the PCSO and its lotto madness in the Visayas and Mindanao," he said, adding:

"But the real intention was pure political propaganda—radio interviews, favorable commentaries, partisan media releases—for Mr. Arroyo's candidates."

Lacson did not name the broadcasters "who were tasked to pay hosannas to the Arroyo administration." He merely said their names and the amount they supposedly took were listed in Rivero's sworn statements.

"Mr. President, if (former Ilocos Norte Gov.) Chavit Singson had his *listahan* (record book), my reliable informant did one better," Lacson said. "He used his daughter's *cuaderno* (notebook) to indicate those who were his regular payola beneficiaries."

Lacson urged that Arroyo be "stopped" from conducting his alleged misdeeds.

"He has abused his affinity with the President to milk agencies of government for his selfish interests and those of his ilk," Lacson said.

He also sought the investigation of "many people who assisted Arroyo," and named them as Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco, Ito los Bañnos, Jack Arroyo, Manny Estrella and Resty de Quiros.

He assailed the President for supposedly forgetting to seek from her husband the honesty that she had demanded of other people. "If she did, Mr. Arroyo was not in the mood to listen," he said.

In Malacañang, Capco denied Lacson's allegations.

He said he never "briefed" the PPC senatorial candidates during the campaign period as he was conscious of his mandate to oversee the government's national communication program.

Capco also said Rivero could not have participated in the campaign to help Pagdanganan as the former governor had a libel case against Rivero in connection with a drug case in Bulacan.

On Cloud Nine

Lacson said the President had failed to "stop the enemy's advances."

"How can she? She is still on Cloud Nine. And the country is in chaos," he said.

He also said he had decided to "call a spade a spade" and "let the ax fall where it must."

During interpellations, Lacson said he hoped that the President would allow Arroyo to attend the committees assigned to look into the alleged irregularity at the PCSO.

The Senate yesterday designated the committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms headed by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara to conduct the inquiry. Angara's committee, according to Senate Resolution No. 161 filed by 11 opposition senators, will investigate "the alleged use of the advertising funds" of the PCSO for campaign purposes.

The other day, the Senate designated the committee on finance to conduct the inquiry. But its chair, Sen. John Osmeña, said he could start holding hearings only in January.

He said he still had to finish the Senate hearings on the 2002 national budget as he wanted Congress to pass the General Appropriations Act of 2002 by Dec. 20.

Direct knowledge

Rivero himself said he was willing to testify at the Senate inquiry.

He told radio dzEC that he had complete papers to prove his accusations against Arroyo and that he had direct knowledge of these as it was he who drew up the media campaign program for the four senatorial candidates.

He said the four knew about the illegal funding because he personally met with them.

Rivero also said he had been receiving death threats. He expressed the belief that certain people were tailing him and his family.

He said money had been offered to him in exchange for his silence, and that among those who spoke with him to stop him from coming out in public were Arroyo and De Quiros.

"I hope they will not tell lies and will heed their conscience," he said in Filipino.

Rivero also acknowledged that there were two factions in PCSO—one headed by Arroyo, and the other by Singson.

He said Singson had held Arroyo's group hostage because the administration needed the ex-governor in the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

Questioning

Desierto said he had ordered investigators from his office to start questioning PCSO officials and employees in an attempt to establish whether government funds were indeed used to bankroll the publicity requirements of the four PPC senatorial candidates. Only when investigators are able to establish that fund misuse was committed and that a public official was involved will the Ombudsman begin a fact-finding investigation, he said.

"We are not conducting a fact-finding investigation (on) the First Gentleman (because he) is a private citizen and not a public official," Desierto said at his weekly news conference yesterday.

RIVERO: Trying to do a Chavit.

"But because of the implications that government funds in the PCSO were involved, it is only natural that we begin a preliminary inquiry, which is not yet a fact-finding effort," he added in Taglish.

The Ombudsman did not make it clear whether he would pursue a full-blown investigation if it turns out that Arroyo was indeed involved in an instance of PCSO fund misuse.

As it is, Arroyo has also been linked to another case being investigated by the Ombudsman.

The First Gentleman and two aides allegedly tried to pressure the President into vetoing two congressional telecommunication franchise bills in exchange for P50 million.

Desierto said he was still waiting for the sworn statements of Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, the President's former social secretary, and Malou Nunez, said to be a consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Rodrigo was earlier named as the one who blew the whistle on Arroyo. She changed her statement later, saying she only heard about the First Gentleman's involvement in the case from other sources.

Nunez, on the other hand, said she only learned about Arroyo's supposed involvement in text messages she had received on her mobile phone. ***With a report from Cathy C. Yamsuan***

Gloria stands by her Mike

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday insisted that her husband had "nothing to hide" in relation to corruption allegations against him and would cooperate with any probe.

Opposition senators yesterday formally called for a Senate investigation into claims that Jose Miguel Arroyo diverted some P250 million in public funds from the state lottery office.

The charges were made by a former consultant of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, who claimed the money was used to finance the campaign of prospective senators and to pay off radio reporters in exchange for favorable commentaries.

Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that the "First Gentleman" "has nothing to hide" and is willing "to face his accusers whether in the Senate or whatever forum."

Earlier this year, a former presidential palace secretary also accused the First Gentleman of complicity in a suspicious telecommunications franchise deal.

The secretary, a high-school friend of President Macapagal, later retracted her allegation and apologized. ***AFP***

Joker is mad: 'I wasn't born yesterday'

(From page A1)

IMPROMPTU caucus on the Senate floor after Senators Lacson and Arroyo exchanged heated words. VAL HANDUMON

stricken wife.

"How cruel can some people get? Without verifying facts, they mention names," Arroyo said.

He also vouched for the integrity of his nephew, who, he said, was the president of the Eye Clinic Center, the leading eye center in the country.

In an interview later, Arroyo disclosed the existence of an alleged "dirty tricks" department of the opposition, which, he said, was responsible for making bogus speeches of senators as well as Senate reports linking administration senators and top government officials to scams.

He said the staffs of opposition senators were running the alleged operation in cahoots with media persons engaged in "auction journalism."

He mentioned the names of Demaree Raval and Janet Rivero, special counsel of Sen. Edgardo Angara and media relations officer of Lacson, respectively.

He said the two allegedly helped cook up the issue of the P250-million controversy involving the First Gentleman.

Conjugal partnership

Arroyo also disclosed that Lacson's informant, Robert Rivero, was married to Lacson's media relations officer.

"What is this, a conjugal partnership?" he said.

Arroyo also pointed out that it was Janet Rivero who distributed copies of the supposed draft speech of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

He said it was Raval who prepared the "privilege speech that never was."

"What is this, a conspiracy of employees trying to besmirch duly elected senators?" Arroyo said.

"Are we now declaring an open war here? I'm not going to retreat. I am saying it now: I am in for a good fight, and I will give it to you."

Arroyo described what the opposition had done as "savagery." He said that if the First Gentleman was the minority's target, then it should not skirt the issue.

Before Lacson delivered his speech, Arroyo and Angara had another heated exchange.

Arroyo took the floor to air his reaction to Senate Resolution No. 161, which the minority coalition had earlier filed.

The resolution directs the Senate committee on constitutional amendments chaired by Angara to investigate the alleged misuse of PCSO funds.

Arroyo pointed out that it was the committee itself that started the rumors on the PCSO. "That is the beauty of it, because through them the accuser will become the accused," he said.

Angara immediately rose to refute Arroyo's "serious allegations," saying that the opposition did not instigate the rumors.

He reiterated that the minority welcomed the investigation and reminded Arroyo that this would be his chance to air his side.

The session adjourned after Pimentel said that "in the spirit of Christmas two months from now," the minority had decided to refer the questions on Lacson's privilege speech to the committee assigned to conduct the inquiry.

Grand conspiracy

Arroyo said there was now "a grand conspiracy, oblivious to anyone who may be sideswept along the way."

He said he learned of the bogus Pimentel speech as early as Monday because 10 Senate reporters asked him about it.

He noted that only two newspapers came out with reports on it even after Pimentel failed to deliver the speech.

Arroyo said it was not Raval's business to "do the job of spreading, circulating such kind of news, and misleading people."

He also said he did not care what it was that Janet Rivero's husband did. "But what I give a hoot about is that our employees here are now being used to do dirty tricks," he added.

Arroyo said he drew the line when the staffs of senators began sowing "intrigues and underhanded tactics."

He also noted that Janet Rivero used to work with Angara and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

"So, you can see there seems to be a grand conspiracy to do these kinds of things through (media) leaks . . . And it is to the credit of the media that only two auction-journalism papers picked it up. The rest did not," he said.

But Janet Rivero denied leaking the supposed speech of Pimentel.

"It did not come from me," she said.

Raval was not available for comment, but Angara denied the accusation made against his special counsel.

"I think that's muddling the issue," Angara said.

Lacson-Perez showdown looms

(From page A1)

Barbers said it would be better for Lacson to face Perez so that the senator could reply to the justice secretary's charges.

Lacson said he would see whether there was need for him to appear before the Senate panels. He said he also expected Perez to back up his claims with documents.

"If he presents fabricated documents, then I will have to confront him with my own documents," he said. "But if he fails to present anything, then I will just be wasting my time."

Lacson had turned the tables on Perez, accusing him of keeping a $20-million bank account in Hong Kong. Lacson said the money was part of the payoff from an Argentine firm.

The Senate is going to wrap up its investigation of Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking this Friday.

Barbers said that on Friday, it would be the turn of Remus Garganera, one of Corpus' witnesses against former NarcGroup officials and associates of Lacson, to testify before the joint Senate panels.

Garganera had earlier claimed that a team of former narcotics operatives led by Supt. John Campos earned at least P7 million a month from street sales of illegal drugs. Campos denied this in Wednesday's hearing.

"P7 million a month? That's outrageous," Campos said of Garganera's charges.

Lastimoso

In Bacolod City, Roberto Lastimoso, former Philippine National Police chief, called for the abolition of the NarcGroup, saying it has instead become the center of the drug operations of rogue policemen.

Lastimoso said he had proposed the disbandment of the unit to then President Joseph Estrada when he was still the head of the PNP.

"Even detainees have been used to sell confiscated drugs," Lastimoso said in an interview with radio station dyOK, which is based in Iloilo City.

The former police chief also lashed at his bitter rival, Lacson.

"It's possible that he (Lacson) could escape the money laundering charges but evidence is strong in other cases like the Kuratong Baleleng (rubout case) and charges of drug trafficking," he said.

Lastimoso said that "narco-politics should be stopped" or the country would become "another Colombia."

He said the testimonies of ex-agents Mary "Rosebud" Ong and Garganera would prove that Lacson had framed him to ease him out of his post as PNP chief.

"I feel very much vindicated, and maybe the country will be happier if we can put to jail the persons who have been involved in these criminal activities," Lastimoso told reporters in Bacolod City.

Lastimoso, now director of the Philippine National Oil Co.'s Petrochemical Development Corp., was in Bacolod yesterday to visit Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon.

Lastimoso was suspended as PNP chief in 1999 after Lacson and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop accused him of interceding for the release of Rafael Madrazo, a suspected drug lord. Estrada later named Lacson as Lastimoso's replacement.

Acop and Lacson filed charges against Lastimoso but he was later cleared by the Sandiganbayan as well as the House of Representatives and the Senate, which had looked into his case.

A president's son-in-law

At the Senate, Lacson and Sen. Noli de Castro yesterday denied naming former actor Lloyd Samartino as the "presidential son-in-law" who allegedly intervened in a 1996 drug bust.

"He's not Lloyd Samartino," Lacson told Senate reporters.

In a privileged speech, De Castro said he would never break a Senate rule seeking to keep information disclosed in an executive session confidential.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel pressed De Castro to name the person tagged by Campos, insisting that it could really be a "presidential son."

He said Campos was "obviously" referring to President Ramos.

"Everyone knows that Ramos has no son . . . Officially, President Ramos has two daughters and one girl," he said jokingly.

Barbers, who was the only one who saw the name of the presidential son Campos wrote on a piece of paper, said he did not share the information with De Castro.

DND chief pins blame. . .

(From page A1)

turning out graduates who end up allegedly running crime syndicates.

In defense of his alma mater and fellow alumni, Reyes said corrupt military officials "are probably under pressure from and under the influence of equally nefarious politicians, pressure groups and businessmen."

Reyes had turned the tables on some congressmen who had asked him what he was doing to address the involvement of some military officers in criminal activities.

Reyes said the military should not be "disassociated" from the rest of society, saying that "maybe we have more corrupt officers because we now have a more corrupt society."

This was his reply to a series of questions raised by Capiz Rep. Fredenil Castro during a House committee hearing on the proposed 2002 budget of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Castro asked whether Reyes had considered reviewing the PMA curriculum in the light of the testimony last Tuesday of a PMA alumnus, Supt. Francisco Villaroman, that the drug-trafficking charges now under investigation by the Senate were the result of a long-running rivalry among PMA graduates in the Philippine National Police.

"That's a continuing concern," replied the DNP chief, a member of PMA Class '66.

Castro said the controversy generated by PMA graduates like police officers Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, trusted aides of former national police chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson, has contributed to the eroding reputation of Asia's premier military school.

Even without being convicted in court, the lawmaker said, Aquino and Mancao tend to be presumed guilty in the mind of the public because they had fled the country allegedly to escape prosecution.

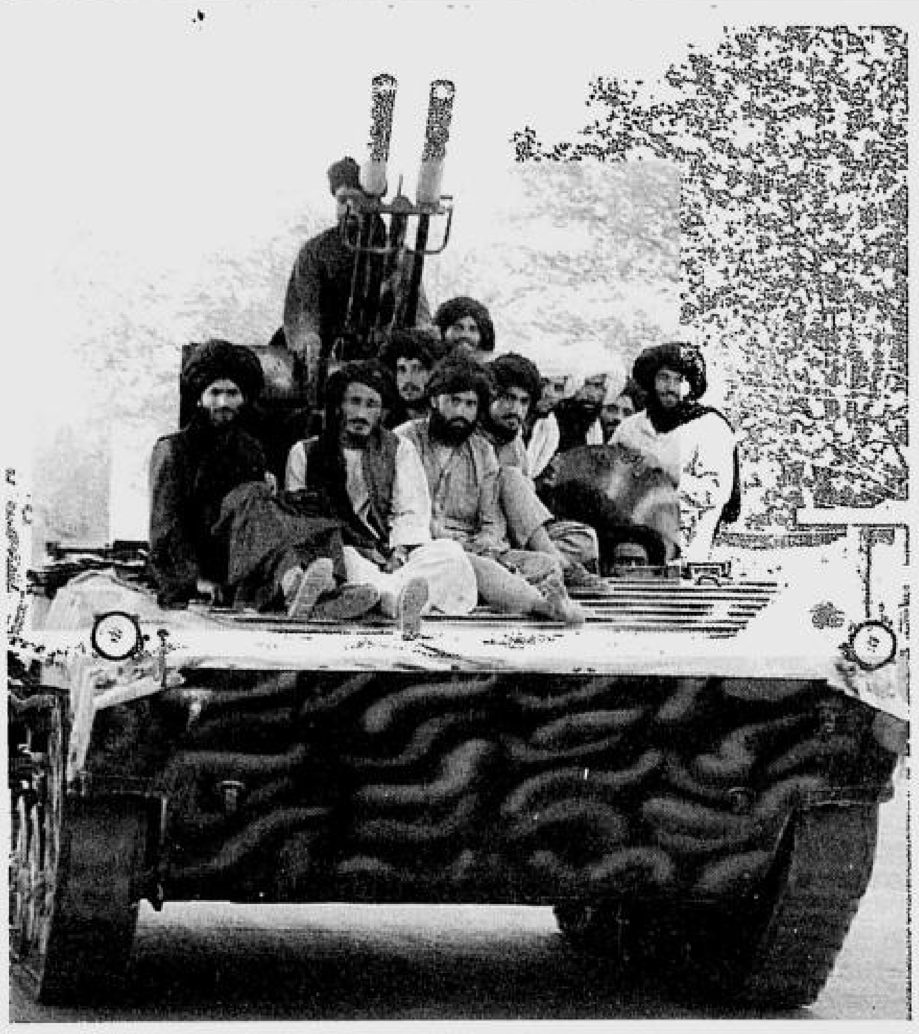
Interviewed during a break in the hearing, PMA Superintendent, Maj. Gen. Rufo De Veyra, strongly disagreed with Villaroman's views, saying they make for a "very simplistic" assessment of the issue.

"The issue is still about money laundering, drug trafficking, criminality, etc., not simply a question of a fight between PMAers," De Veyra said.

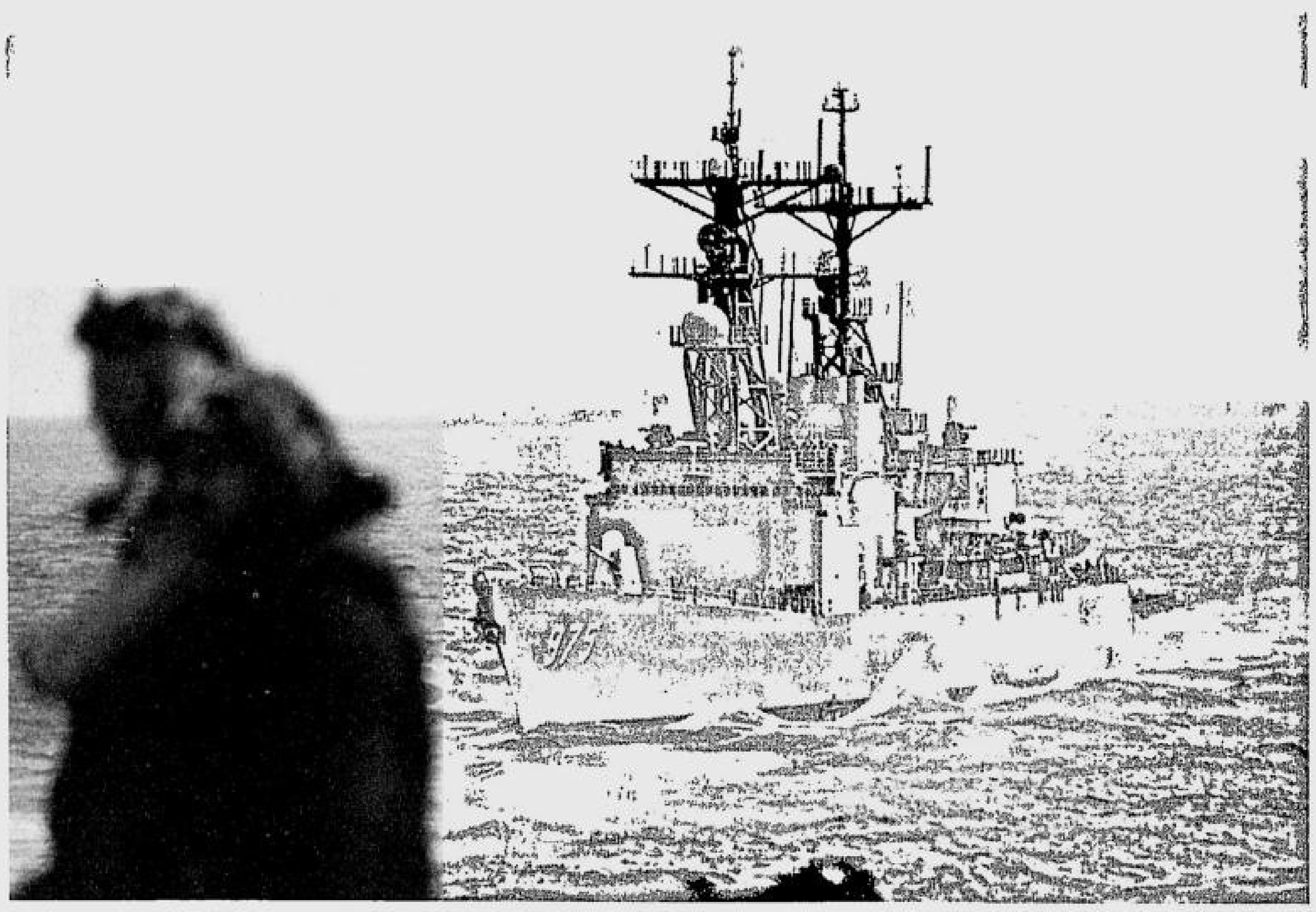
To the PMA school head, a PMA graduate's questionable track record as member of the AFP and the PNP should not be blamed outright on the institution.

"You are talking about the institution and the graduates—people who have been absorbed by the community. They are really very different entities," De Veyra said, adding:

"I think it is not even fair that the institution gets under fire. It ought to be the graduates who should be under fire. After all, they assumed values that may be different from what they got from the academy."



THEY'RE not going to take US attacks sitting down. Taliban soldiers in Kabul, Afghanistan, pose on top of an armored personnel carrier to indicate their resolve and preparedness to defend their homeland and Osama bin Laden.



DESTROYER USS O'Brien comes alongside the USS Carl Vinson on Tuesday during replenishment operations somewhere in the seas near southwest Asia.

AP

'Clear and compelling' case

(From page A1)

Laden is involved in this action," he added after stressing that the Taliban did not seek war.

Even so, he demanded proof.

"If Osama bin Laden is involved in this action we need the evidence, which is the proof on Osama bin Laden, to talk on this option," he said.

At the Nato headquarters in Brussels, however, the alliance's secretary general, Lord Robertson, said the United States had presented "clear and compelling evidence" tying Bin Laden and his al-Qaida organization to the terror attacks.

"It is clear that all roads lead to al-Qaida and pinpoint Osama bin Laden as having been involved in it," Robertson said Tuesday after a classified briefing given to Nato's ruling council by US Ambassador Francis X. Taylor.

Bush, Blair

The Taliban's plea drew a toughly worded response from Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Blair said Tuesday that time had run out on the Taliban and they should expect the worst.

"The Taliban must surrender the terrorists or surrender power," Blair said in a speech to his Labor Party in Brighton, England.

"This is a battle with only one outcome. Our victory, not theirs."

On the other side of the Atlantic, Bush also ruled out negotiations with the Taliban and declined to talk of deadlines.

"There are no negotiations. There's no calendar. We'll act on our time," Bush said Tuesday at a White House meeting with congressional leaders.

"We'll do it in a manner that not only secures the United States as best as possible but makes freedom in the world more likely to exist in the future."

As the United States and Britain deployed their military forces near Afghanistan, Rumsfeld headed to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt and Uzbekistan.

The United States and Britain have put aircraft carriers, more than 300 warplanes, ships armed with cruise missiles and special operations troops within striking range of Afghanistan.

Rumsfeld, whose first stop is Saudi Arabia, gave few details about what he planned to discuss.

His spokesperson, Victoria Clarke, told reporters that he would "talk about the campaign against terrorism and . . . have consultations at the highest levels."

Asked why Rumsfeld was sent instead of Secretary of State Colin Powell, White House spokesperson Fleischer would only say Bush believed the defense secretary was the "appropriate" official to go.

Airport reopened

Bush also announced that Reagan National Airport, the only airport still closed because of the Sept. 11 attacks, will reopen Thursday under intense security. Flight patterns take planes close to the White House, Pentagon, the Capitol building and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Three weeks after suicide hijackings stunned the nation, Bush used the announcement to urge Americans not to shrink from the threat of terrorism. "There is no greater symbol that America is back in business than the reopening of this airport," Bush said. "Terror will not stand."

While preparing for war, Bush also took steps to jumpstart a stalled economy.

Bush met congressional leaders to work on an economic stimulus package that could include more tax cuts and moves to stimulate corporate investment.

The White House and Congress reached agreement on a budget bill that would increase spending on the military and education.

For his part, US Attorney General John Ashcroft once again warned Americans that the threat of fresh attacks remained.

"I believe the kind of attack that we endured shows that the risks of such possibilities are substantial," he said.

He urged Congress to approve expanded law enforcement powers, such as wiretapping phones or tracking Internet communications.

Around 500 people have been detained in the United States as part of the post-attack investigation. Other countries have also made arrests as part of the Bush campaign against terrorism.

The US arrests and Ashcroft's legislative proposals have started to raise concerns among civil rights groups about abuse of government powers.

Reports from Reuters and AP

DOH: Fears of epidemic unfounded

(From page A1)

the hospital, according to the Department of Health. There were also no alarming increase in the number of influenza cases in Mandaluyong City, Pasig City and San Juan.

Records at the clinic of the Poveda Learning Center showed that while 130 students visited the clinic on Tuesday, only 30 were found to be running a fever. The sick students were sent home. Poveda has 2,000 students.

At the Pasig Catholic School, only 18 out of the 170 or so students, who went to the clinic for consultation, were found to have fever. The Church-run school has 6,850 students.

Dayrit said he would go to St. Paul College in Pasig on Oct. 8 to confirm if all the 500 students in the grade school and high school, who reportedly contracted the virus, were all showing the symptoms of the flu.

St. Paul, which reported the largest number of students exhibiting flu-like symptoms, has suspended classes for four days.

"It is influenza season and it is normal that children will catch the flu," Dayrit said. The flu season comes and goes with the rainy season, according to the health secretary.

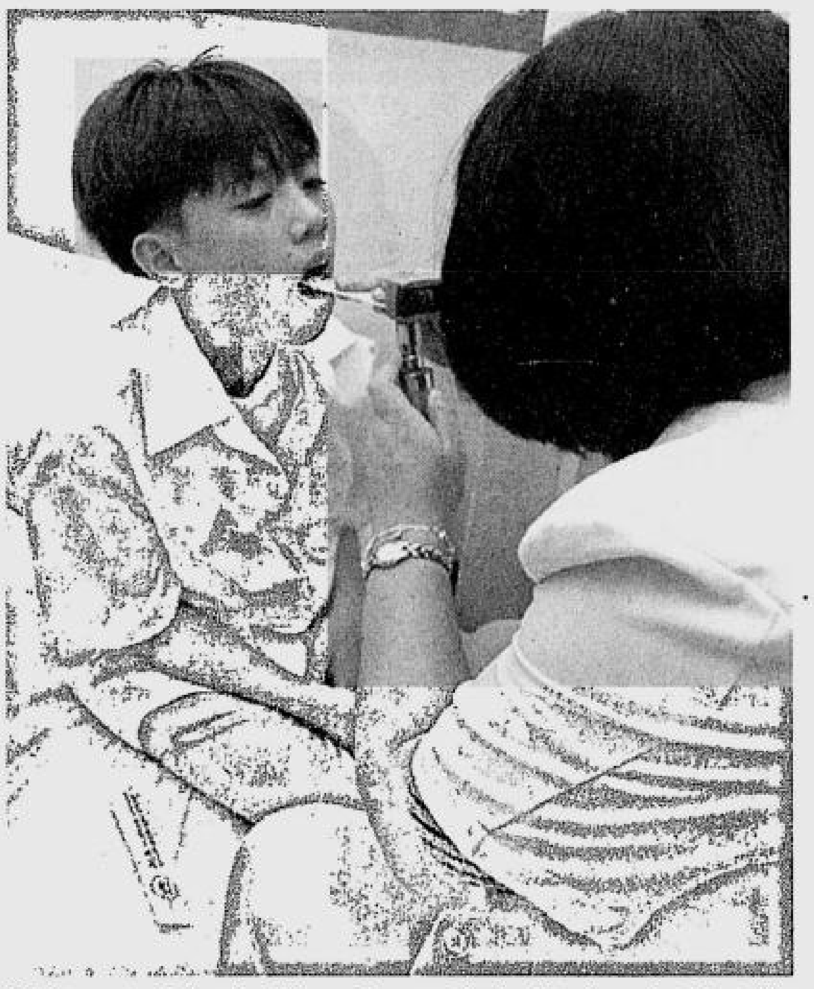
Other private schools that reported students infected by the virus included La Salle Greenhills and Xavier School in Mandaluyong City; Ateneo de Manila's elementary and high schools and St. Bridgette's College in Quezon City; and Colegio de San Agustin in Makati City.

Students of St. Paul College in Pasig will not be returning to school until Monday but classes at La Salle Greenhills and Xavier School will resume today. The Poveda has not suspended classes.

In northern Metro Manila, nearly 300 pupils were taken yesterday to school clinics and hospitals, according to Susan de Leon, public information officer of Caloocan City.

The students, mostly from Caloocan's Notre Dame of Greater Manila, were suffering from colds, coughs, fever and other "flu-like" symptoms, De Leon said.

Dr. Hoc Lim Sy, physician of Notre Dame, confirmed that at least 178 of the students in the school were affected by the flu.



UP Integrated School in Diliman, Quezon City, had its share of students like Jake Latore with flu-like symptoms.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Several students from La Consolacion College, St. Mary's Academy, and other schools were also said to have been afflicted by the flu virus starting Tuesday.

Also yesterday, students from a public high school in Pasig City were reported to have been suffering from flu-like symptoms experienced by their counterparts in exclusive schools.

Nothing unusual at Rizal high

But Dr. Rosalinda Lecira, physician at the Rizal High School, clarified that there was nothing unusual in the number of students suffering from the flu.

"We had about 40 patients today who were treated for the flu, but there's nothing unusual about that, especially during this time of the year," Lecira said.

She noted that an average of 80 to 100 students was being brought to the school clinic every day.

The Rizal High School holds the record of being the biggest high school in the world, with an estimated student population of 24,000.

Administrators of Poveda and the Pasig Catholic School told the health secretary that there was no need for parents to rush and fetch their children just because their respective clinics had more than 100 consultations each that morning.

Poveda directress Estrella Macrohon told Dayrit that the school sent home many of their pupils because they were fetched by frantic parents who want to keep their kids away from a "mysterious" airborne virus.

The panic started after the ABS-CBN News Channel reported that a virus downed 41 of Poveda's students.

"It was all the work of media and text messages. The parents rushed to the school to pick up their kids so they would not be infected," Macrohon told the team of the health department that accompanied Dayrit to Poveda.

They were just sent home upon the advice of the school physician, according to Macrohon.

Dayrit said the disease would go away in just a matter of days. "All one has to do is have enough bed rest and have plenty of fluids," he said.

Leading cause of death

Records of the DOH show that influenza is still one of the 10 leading causes of morbidity in the country.

In 1999, there were more than 500,000 reported flu cases nationwide, giving it a morbidity rate of a little over 670 per 100,000 population.

Local health offices in the eastern part of Metro Manila sent medical inspection teams to conduct an epidemiology survey in the affected schools.

Dr. Rosario Manalang, Pasig City health office chief, said personnel from her office would meet with the administrators of St. Paul College of Pasig within the week to make a profile of the afflicted students.

Manalang explained that information such as age and area of residence was necessary in determining the real cause of the students' affliction.

Health officials from Mandaluyong City and San Juan had also been sent to the Poveda Learning Center, Immaculate Concepcion Academy, OB Montessori and Dominican College.

Edna Jorado, a medical statistician from Mandaluyong, however, said that nurses and doctors from the city health office had difficulty in entering some of the schools because of their strict security measures.

2 more Chinoys held by kidnappers

(From page A1)

The incidents apparently caught police off guard. They came after what police said was more than a decade of "peace and order" in the region.

Chief Insp. Rolando Asuncion, Philippine National Police regional information officer, said the kidnappers of Jacqui Rowena Tiu, 28, of San Fernando City and Charlie Ngo, 52, of Dagupan City had already communicated with the victims' families to demand an undisclosed amount of ransom money.

Tiu is a daughter of the owners of Capital Lumber in San Fernando City.

Ngo is one of the owners of the Star Plaza Hotel in Dagupan City.

Tiu was reportedly abducted by three armed men at around 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 27 while driving her car on her way to the family store. She was with her mother when her car was bumped in the rear by a maroon car. When the women got out to check the damage, three armed men alighted from the other car and forced Jacqui back inside her car. The mother escaped.

Ngo was reported missing by his relatives on Sept. 27, after he failed to return home the previous night.

Supt. Noli Taliño, Dagupan City police chief, said his men were verifying reports that Ngo's car, a white Daewoo, was abandoned on Sept. 30 in Moncada, Tarlac.

A check with the Moncada police, however, failed to show any recovered vehicle in the area.

Police refused entry

Taliño said Ngo's family refused to allow the police to enter the family house at the Dior subdivision.

Since last week, the Chinese-Filipino community in Dagupan was abuzz with reports that Ngo was abducted. The police initially denied such incident, saying they did not receive any formal complaint from the family.

Employees of the Star Plaza Hotel dispelled reports that Ngo was abducted, saying their boss "was out of town."

But a close friend of the Ngo family told the INQUIRER that there were ongoing negotiations between Ngo's family and the kidnappers.

It was learned that the amount demanded by the kidnap group had been reduced from P100 million to P20 million.

On Tuesday, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. appealed to the kidnappers not to harm Ngo. He issued the appeal after National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane confirmed to him Ngo's abduction.

De Venecia, however, earned the ire of the Chinese-Filipino community in the city, saying the Speaker's statement could endanger Ngo's life.

"The family apparently wanted to keep quiet because (not talking to the police and the media) could be one of the conditions set by the kidnappers," the Ngo family friend told the INQUIRER.

Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Ilocos region police director, has organized Task Force Jacqui and Task Force Bituin for the speedy rescue of the two kidnap victims despite the refusal of their families to cooperate with the authorities.

Ground troops are "fine tuning" their operations, including the conduct of police dragnet "dry-runs," to better respond to kidnap cases, Asuncion said.

Earlier reports said police units in the region had responded too late and thus failed to arrest Tiu's abductors.

"We already have the system—the PNP doctrine—but we admit we had some flaws in our operations," Asuncion said.

Kidnappers kill Uratex owners' sis

(From page A1)

Burca Jr., 25, of the Western Police District, and her driver Arcangel Barquilla were abducted Monday in Manresa, Quezon City.

Barquilla, who miraculously escaped death, said the kidnappers shot and killed Wong and Burca when the businesswoman refused to pay the ransom demand of P30 million-P40 million.

Querol identified Wong as a sister of Naty Cheng, wife of Robert Cheng, who owns the Uratex Foam Industries. He said the bodies of Wong and Burca were found in a grassy area in Barangay Bignay around 9 a.m. yesterday.

Wearing a faded-blue polo shirt spotted with dried blood, Marquella told the INQUIRER that the kidnappers left him when the gun they had poked at his head twice failed to go off.

Police said the kidnappers cuffed Barquilla's hand with that of Burca before they shot the policeman in the head. Wong was also shot in the head at close range.

Police investigators neither confirmed nor denied that Barquilla had colluded with the kidnappers.

Last June, Mary Cheng Rosagas, a daughter of Robert and Naty Cheng, was kidnapped along with her bodyguard and her driver inside the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City. The bodyguard was identified as a Dionisio Burca.

The three were released 17 hours after their abduction, reportedly upon the Cheng family's payment of P10 million in ransom.

Mug shot

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group yesterday said he and his men could not yet ascertain the group behind Wong's abduction and killing.

Gualberto said, however, that Barquilla identified one of the abductors from among the mug shots presented to him at the Valenzuela police headquarters.

But in a press release sent to the INQUIRER, the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR (Kidnapping for Ransom) Task Force said its teams were hunting "members of the Frederick Valencia @ Ambot Group."

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was quoted as saying that the group had also been linked to the abductions of Mark John Giga last Sept. 26, Rosagas last June 18, and Michael Ng.

During a casual conversation with Querol, Gualberto and Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, Metro Manila police chief, Barquilla said some of the abductors were wearing police jackets.

Gualberto said he could not understand why Wong was killed only two days after the abduction.

"This is the first time since 1996 that a kidnap victim was killed," he told reporters in a press conference.

Querol could not tell if Wong and Burca were killed elsewhere before being dumped in Barangay Bignay.

At Camp General Alejo Santos in Bulacan, Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, police director of the province, alerted his 24 police chiefs to the possibility that Wong's abductors could be staying in a safe house there.

Wong's family had earlier sought assistance from the police stations in Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and Bulacan.

7 men

At least seven armed men seized Wong and her companions near Banawe and Sapocoy Streets in Quezon City between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Monday, Querol said.

Wong and her companions had just left her house on board a Mitsubishi Adventure van when the armed men in an Isuzu Highlander van and a Toyota Revo van blocked them front and back.

Some of the armed men alighted from their vehicles, blindfolded the victims at gunpoint, commandeered their vehicle, and drove toward an area north of Valenzuela.

Barquilla said that at the safe house where they were taken, he often heard Wong and the kidnappers arguing about the amount to be paid as ransom.

He said the kidnappers decided to kill them when the transaction went sour. ***With a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

NCA 7-stag set at Dome

EXPLOSIVE action awaits Stagwars 2001 fans during the blockbuster NCA 7-Stag Derby on Oct. 8-10 at the world-class Araneta Coliseum.

This will mark the third leg of a five-leg series under the auspices of the prestigious National Cockers Association.

The NCA is not only noted for staging quality cockfights but also for setting aside a substantial share of its earnings from derbies held at the Big Dome to help the less fortunate members of the community, including the funding of annual scholarship grants to poor and deserving students.

This year, the NCA granted scholarships to six students at Miriam Academy for computer science and to three others at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

Hosted by Tos Reyes, Patrick Puno, John Capinpin and Dong Chong, the cockfest offers three-stag elimination matches billed on Monday, Oct. 8, followed by the four-stag finals on Wednesday, Oct. 10. Only stags screened and wing-banded by NCA, NGBA, GFBAN, Balbina, PAGBA and IGBA are qualified for Stagwars 2001, which offers handsome cash prizes to the champion and runners-up. Submission of weights will be on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 7, at the Big Dome. For details, call 911-3101, ask for Dong Lamoste. Also scheduled are stag derbies on Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 22-24.

Thus far, leading the star-studded field are three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, who emerged the solo winner and runner-up on Sept. 24-26 and first leg co-champions Jima-Fer of June and Rudy Jingco of Pampanga, McArthur-Sir Vincent Oct. 16-18 of Alan Tan and Geran-Arnis Master of Gerry Fevidal. They will be opposed by the dreaded battle birds of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, the ageless James Chiongbian, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun "Idol" Santiago, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Rudy Albano, Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and Danny Hinlo, famous breeders Boy Jiao and Jun Cometa.

Mandaluyong derby tonight

MORE than 50 fights are lined up tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum as the "4th Ucap/Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby" enters its championship round beginning at 6 p.m. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feed and Washout Shampoo.

Longshot entries Cainta Town Fiesta of CFCC operator Tito Aquino and Altuz Oct. 16 and 18 Mandaluyong of lawyer Ram Lopez posted three victories each Tuesday night to lead the pacesetters in today's finales.

For other inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

With two points are Esting Teopaco (EGT Stingers), Jun Litonjua (Alabang), Mario Villamor (M2 Phoenix Invictus), Butch Macasaet (BJ Greenwood I), Sen. Ramon Revilla (GF-Ban Cavite Coliseum Int'l I and II), Patrick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan), Jessie Viceo (San Rafael Anniv.), derby host Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master III), and Sandy Javier/Boy Diaz (RMR Royal maverick Arnis Master).

PBA THRILLER

Johnny stars in Pop Cola win

By June Navarro

THE SMALLEST man on the floor created the biggest break of the game last night.

Johnny Abarrientos summoned his old form as he helped Pop Cola win its fourth straight win with an 80-74 victory over Talk N Text in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Abarrientos, the league's Most Valuable Player in 1996, made a crucial steal in the last 21 seconds that eventually broke the backs of the Phone Pals.

His steal, which paved the way for Estong Ballesteros to seal the win for Pop Cola, capped a prolific final quarter performance that allowed the Panthers to tie their victims at second place with identical 4-2 records.

Abarrientos, whose steal came off a driving Gilbert Demape, is just a steal away from tying Robert Jaworski Sr. (973) in the all-time career steals list.

Roselle Ellis, Edward Juinio, Rudy Hatfield, Nelson Asaytono and Ballesteros also had their share of shining moments in the stretch.

"What's very satisfying is the players sacrifice their individual interests for the success of the team," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Despite going 4 of 12 from the freethrow line, Ellis pumped a game-high 28 points, grabbed 13 rebounds, issued 4 assists and scored 2 blocks.

Ellis overshadowed his counterpart, Brandon Williams, who went 10 of 11 from the stripe but could only finish with 22 points for the Phone Pals' losing cause.

Williams faded in the final half after he got bottled up by the Panthers, forcing Asi Taulava to take matters into his hands.

Aware of the Phone Pals' dwindling resources in the payoff period, Taulava almost singlehandedly carried the fight as he topscored for his team with 23 points.

Derrick Brown powered Purefoods to a 92-82 win over Batang Red Bull in the second game. It was the Hotdogs third victory in six games while the Thunder slid to 2-3 in a tie with San Miguel Beer.

POP COLA 80—Ellis 28, Hatfield 13, Juinio 10, Abarrientos 10, Asaytono 6, Morano 6, Ballesteros 4, Bolado 2, Lastimosa 1.

TALK N TEXT 74—Taulava 23, Williams 22, Pablo 11, Camaso 8, Fran 5, Gonzales 5, Demape 0, Codinera 0, Cui 0.

Quarters: 25-25, 40-40, 61-52, 80-74.

GAMES TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:05 p.m.—Shell vs Pop Cola
7:10 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia

Almario dies after stroke, 38

ALFIE Almario, a many-time national player and a member of the 1989 San Miguel Beer Grand Slam squad in the PBA, died yesterday after an apparent heart attack in his farm in Isabela.

ALMARIO

Almario, 38, saw action for San Miguel Beer from 1986-1990 and averaged 4.6 career points under the aegis of coach Norman Black.

His remains were brought last night to the Christ The King church in Green Meadows.

A proud son of Cebu, the 6-foot-3, 200-lb forward, was also part of the national team that captured the internationally acclaimed Jones Cup in 1985.

At that time, Almario played alongside former PBA superstars Allan Caidic, Hector Calma, Samboy Lim, Yves Dignadice, Tonichi Ytturi and Chip Engeland, now a shooting coach for Duke University.

Almario, a three-point specialist in his prime who embraced golf with passion after he left basketball, had also played for De La Salle.

He was a member of the victorious RP Youth team in 1982. He played in the World Championship in 1985 in Girona, Spain.

"Besides being a great ballplayer, Alfie possessed a good attitude inside the court that rubbed on his teammates," said Black of Almario.

Cebuana, Andok's beat foes

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—The Cebuana Lhuillier Gems banked on a flurry of triples to break free from the FedEx Laguna lakers and then held the fort to prevail, 119-104, last night in the MBA Second Phase at the Cebu City Coliseum.

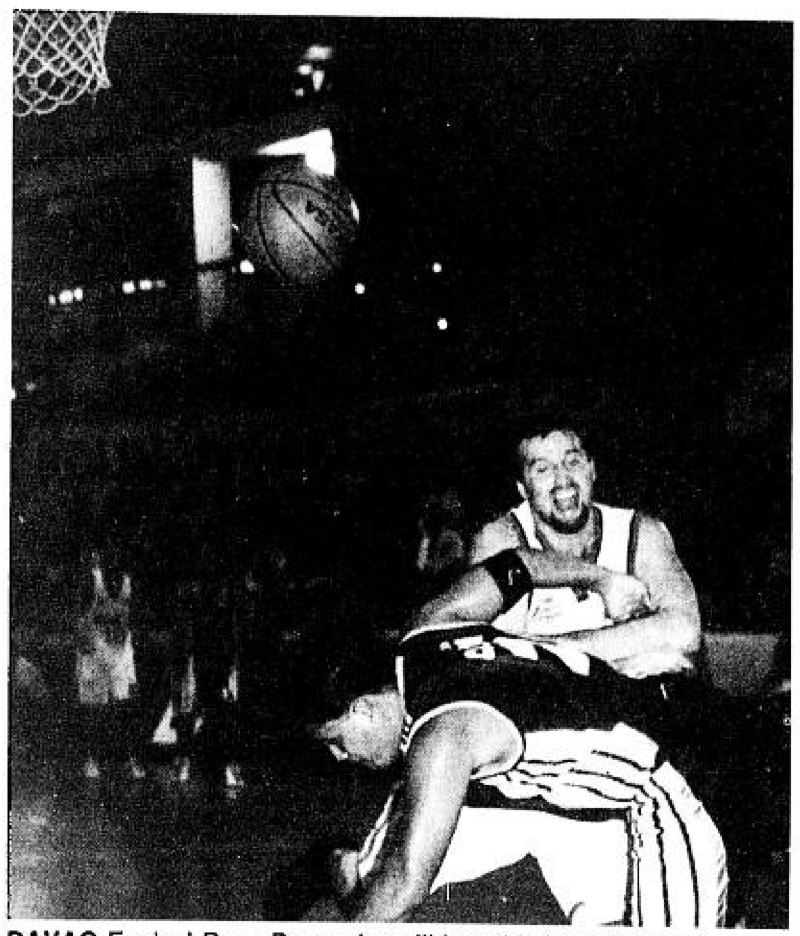
Three straight triples, two by Al Solis and one by Bobby Jose, lifted the Gems to a 20-point spread in the fourth quarter that cushioned the impact of a last-ditch Laguna uprising triggered by Chris Clay.

Peter Naron, who together with Stephen Padilla gave the Gems an 84-63 bulge in the third quarter, made seven of his 22 points in the last three minutes as Cebuana Lhuillier avenged its 115-95 defeat to Laguna in their first meeting.

Naron finished with 22 points and was named best player of the game. FedEx Laguna fell to 3-3.

Earlier, Andok's San Juan took the fight out of Nueva Ecija right in the first half and went on to tally a 104-80 victory at the San Juan Gym.

Following the instructions of coach Philip Cezar to the letter, the Knights clamped down on the Patriots while coming through with scoring outbursts to break away, 58-39, at interval en route to their third straight win after dropping their first game.


DAVAO Eagles' Ryan Bernardo collides with the driving Laker Jeff Flowers of FedEx Laguna during their recent MBA battle at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. The Lakers won in record-breaking fashion, 142-107.

Chariot champion

THE CHARIOT/Skygo Metro Cabs won the Cebu Basketball League crown yesterday by nipping ML Kwarta Padala in overtime, 84-83, at the Cebu Coliseum.

It was a grand farewell for coach Titing Manalili, who had steered the Cabs for 17 months.

"Up to the end, the boys proved they still trusted me," said Manalili, who will next coach Casino Rubbing Alcohol.

Tac's cagers remain alive

NATIONAL shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring Cooking Oil cagers ripped Grandtex, 117-90, Tuesday to boost its semifinal chances in the PBL Open tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Bobby Parks knocked in 18 points to lead four other Spring Oilmen who scored in double figures as they raced to a comfortable 64-41 halftime lead in the first quarterfinal knockout match.

Spring's other top scorers were Richie Ricafuente with 13, Alan de Castro (13), Rodel Manuel (12) and Joshua Lambert (10).

Coach Tito Palma's Spring boys were playing Chopat in the second "KO" match at presstime last night, needing a victory to earn a semifinal date with idle Hapee Toothpaste at 1 p.m. today.

The scores:

Spring (117) - Parks 18, Ricafuente 13, De Castro 13, Manuel 12, Lambert 10, Alforque 9, Nabung 9, Lapena 9, Reyes 8, Pacheco 8, Garcia 2, Buendia 2, Mallari 2, Espiritu 2

Grandtex (90) - Lomboy 24, Rodriguez 23, Marquez 19, Jimenez 14, Armojalas 6, Oreta 4, Balones 0

Halftime: 64-41

SPORTSWATCH

Laguna's Cabillion solo champion

UNHERALDED cocker-breeder Bobby Cabillion of Alaminos, Laguna, emerged as solo champion after his entry RSC Pasay Cockpit posted five straight wins in last week's "Sagupaan 5-Stag Bigtime Invitational Derby" held at the Pampanga Coliseum, San Fernando City. Jimmy Mariquit of Angeles City, who fielded an imported grey battle stag, won the Fastest Kill award from Sagupaan Super Feeds (7 seconds). The event, witnessed by an overflow crowd, was hosted by *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, who promised to stage another exciting stagfest to give way to requests from satisfied aficionados. The upcoming event, dubbed as "Sagupaan 4-Stag Smalltime Derby," will be held at Pampanga Coliseum on Oct. 18. The guaranteed prize is P200,000 plus a Sagupaan trio for the champion. Entry fee is P5,500. Screening will be held on the day of the derby, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon. Antonio, who is also the host of Sagupaan TV show on IBC-13 every Saturday (12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.), said that upcoming breeders from Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Zambales and Pangasinan are taking part in the event.

Mangubat to defend crown vs Korean

WORLD Boxing Council international flyweight champion Randy Mangubat battles Korea's Kim Jae Choon on Oct. 6 at the Casino Filipino-Parañaque. Mangubat won his crown on Oct. 14, 2000, from Jongwan Kim, also from Korea. Tiger Ari collides with Lee Jong Bum while WBC International minimum weight champion Ernesto Rubillar battles Kim Hee Wan in the other fights. The fights will be presented by Elorde International Productions under Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr. and Casino Filipino-Parañaque. For ticket inquiries, call 825-7229.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	93	62	.600	
Boston	77	79	.494	16 1/2
Toronto	76	81	.484	18
Baltimore	63	93	.404	30 1/2
Tampa Bay	59	98	.376	35
Central				
x-Cleveland	89	67	.571	
Minnesota	82	75	.522	7 1/2
Chicago	82	76	.519	8
Detroit	64	93	.408	25 1/2
Kansas City	62	95	.395	27 1/2
West				
x-Seattle	112	45	.713	
y-Oakland	97	60	.618	15
Anaheim	75	82	.478	37
Texas	72	85	.459	40

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	84	73	.535	
Philadelphia	83	74	.529	1
New York	80	78	.506	4 1/2
Florida	74	83	.471	10
Montreal	65	92	.414	19
Central				
Houston	91	66	.580	
St. Louis	91	66	.580	
Chicago	85	72	.541	6
Cincinnati	66	91	.420	25
Milwaukee	65	92	.414	26
Pittsburgh	60	96	.380	31 1/2
West				
Arizona	89	68	.567	
San Francisco	87	70	.554	2
Los Angeles	83	74	.529	6
San Diego	77	80	.490	12
Colorado	71	86	.452	

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Baltimore 4, Toronto 3; Minnesota 5, Detroit 0; N.Y. Yankees 6, Chicago White Sox 4; Tampa Bay 10, Boston 3; Kansas City 5, Cleveland 1; Seattle 14, Anaheim 5; Oakland 8, Texas 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh 10, N.Y. Mets 1; Florida 4, Montreal 3; Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 1; San Francisco 4, Houston 1; Cincinnati 5, Chicago Cubs 4; St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1; Arizona 10, Colorado 1; Los Angeles 5, San Diego 2.

AP

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Heavy Metal 2. Go Johnny Go 3. Earth Angel 4. Women's Task

Race 2—1. River Bandit 2. Howard Huge 3. Beauty and Grace 4. Winning Rose

Race 3—1. Sealed With A Kiss 2. Stock Rising 3. Cubano 4. Nevada Rhum

Race 4—1. West Pointer 2. Halo Effect 3. Rosa Valentina 4. Sprint Free 5. Andee's Ace 6. Speed Charm

Race 5—1. Iron Fist 2. Great Hill 3. Hingis 4. Au Rapid 5. Timber Nectar

Race 6—1. Courage 2. Mark's Treasure 3. Full Show

Race 7—1. Champs Elysees 2. Patutina 3. The King 4. Make Sure 5. Sunrise

Race 8—1. Windy City 2. All Grace 3. Real McCoy 4. Dynasty

Race 9—1. Aprey's Choice 2. Bohemyo 3. Lovely Luigi 4. Green Leaves 5. Danielle's Angel 6. Black Force

ASIAN F3 CHAMP

Jojo Silverio (second from left) of Standard Insurance-Kace Eletronics Caltex Team Tom's is seen with his trophy after winning his 6th championship of the Asian Formula 3 Challenge of the Casino Grand Prix at the BRC Formula Speedway last weekend. Flanking him are (from left) Race 9 runners-up Pepon Marave and Philip Alvendia.

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POOL: World Pool Masters 2001 at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN

BASEBALL: MLB Division Series at 8 a.m. (r – 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: Asian Tour / Davidoff Tour - Shin Han Dong Hae Open Highlights at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PBA Peoria Open at 11 a.m. on ESPN

PGA Texas Open, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Jordan's secret practice

WILMINGTON, North Carolina—Michael Jordan practiced twice behind closed doors. The only witnesses were his teammates, his coaching staff, some state troopers and a few college students. "He was awesome," one young woman said as she emerged from the gymnasium doors Tuesday evening. "He's buff," said another. A pack of reporters and cameramen didn't get to see Jordan do anything more than cheer from the bench. The Washington Wizards let the media watch the final 15 minutes of practice, by which time Jordan had already finished playing in two scrimmages.

Archers seek UAAP crown today

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Games Today (Araneta Coliseum)
3 p.m.—UST vs Ateneo
(jrs, best-of-three)
5 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo
(best-of-three)

DE La Salle seeks its fourth straight UAAP crown today when it battles arch-rival Ateneo in Game 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The game will start at 5 p.m. after the 3 o'clock titular showdown for the junior crown between University of Sto. Tomas and Ateneo.

The Green Archers, 74-68 winner of Game 1, are favored despite the fact that several of them were hospitalized on Tuesday for an airborne flu virus.

UST will win the junior crown with another victory today against Ateneo, which dropped a 67-69 squeaker in Game 1.

La Salle regulars Manny Ramos and Adonis Sta. Maria and reserve Vincent San Diego were confined at the Manila Sanitarium the other day for observation. Several of their teammates were also admitted at the Sanitarium but were released after a routine checkup the same day.

PUMAREN

LIPA

La Salle's cause will be hurt should Ramos not play today. Ramos starred in Game 1, grabbing 13 rebounds, which was more than double his 5.7 rebounds per game average. He outrebounded Ateneo's Twin Towers, Rich Alvarez (12) and Enrico Villanueva (10).

La Salle routed Ateneo in rebounds in Game 1, 53-34.

Ateneo will also have to check rookie Mark Cardona, who had 17 in Game 1, if it wishes to extend the championship to a deciding Game 3 on Oct. 11.

Ritualo knocked in 13 points for La Salle while Mike Cortez and Carlo Sharma both finished in double figures, typifying La Salle's balanced firepower in Game 1.

But Sharma will be out of today's game to serve out a suspension for a punching foul against Alvarez in Game 1.

Should the Eagles fail today, the Archers will duplicate UST's four straight UAAP victories from 1993.

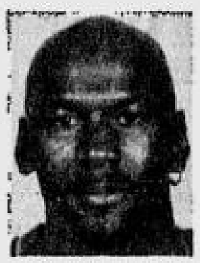
La Salle was runner-up in the last three of those four UST titles.

Due to the virus epidemic scare on Tuesday, the Archers did not have practice for two days.

BJ Manalo may suit up for La Salle after missing Game 1 when he got injured during practice.

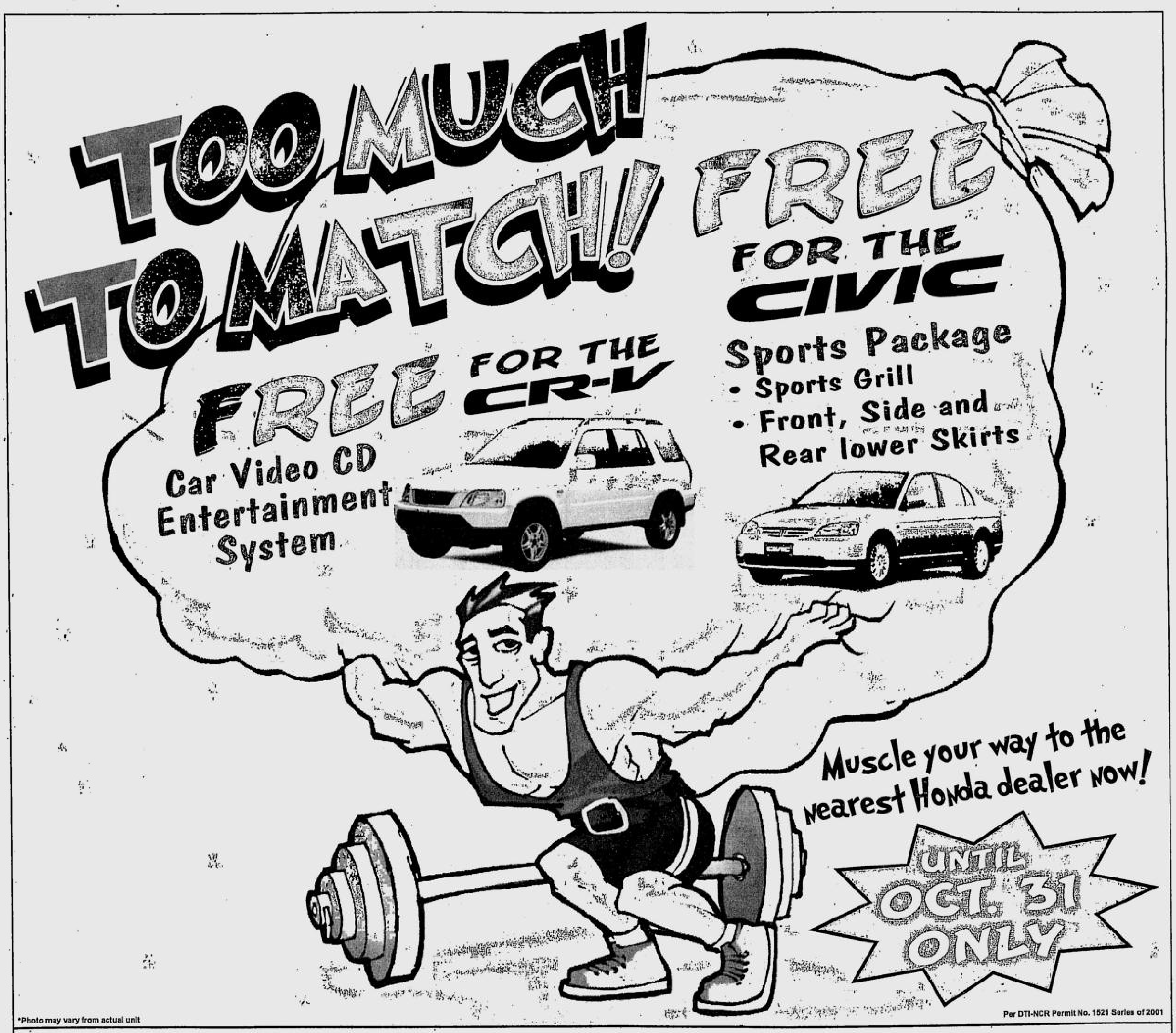
Jordan mag out

WILL Michael Jordan, who turns 39 on February, dominate the NBA like he used to? Will he lead the Washington Wizards to the playoffs despite its pathetic record in recent years?


JORDAN

Tower Sports, indisputably the top NBA publication published locally, has the answers with its latest issue out on the streets.

Copies of the Jordan special are available at all leading bookstores at P75, a bargain with the wealth of information and attractive photos the magazine contains.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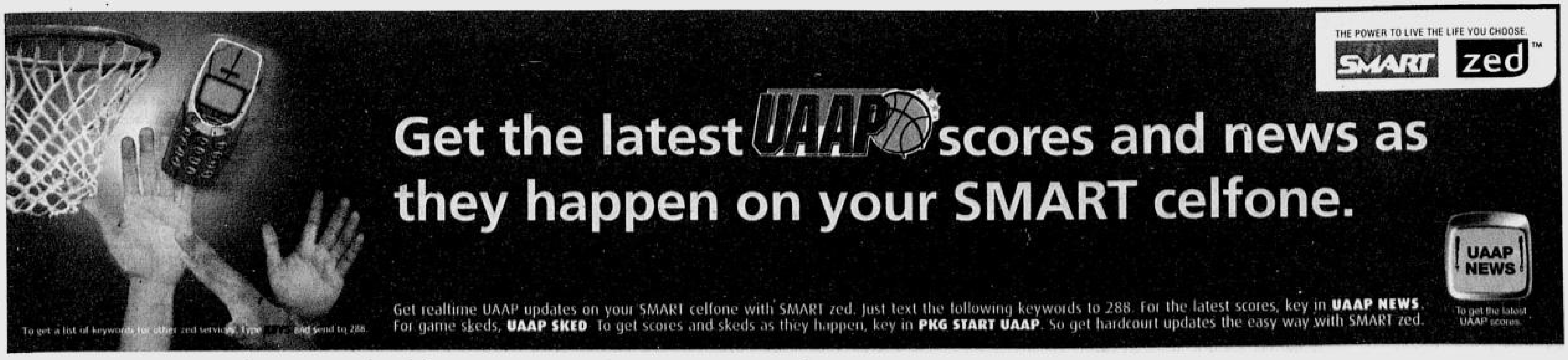

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Japanese jailed for 'bottle-feeding' baby
On Target: Lastimoso is exonerated A18

Ricky Belmonte dies at age 54

BY LEAH SALTERIO

ACTOR Ricky Belmonte, in a coma since Sunday, died at 4 a.m. yesterday at Parañaque Medical Center. He was 54.

No one had to pull the plug from the respirator, which barely kept the actor alive at the intensive care unit of the hospital.

Belmonte's first cousin, singer-actor Tirso Cruz III, told the INQUIRER that the actor quietly went on his own.

"Can you imagine if they had to decide to pull the plug from the respirator? I believe what happened was God's will. God probably said, 'I'll take my son home so he will no longer have a hard time'."

Belmonte, Jesus "Jesse" Cruz in real life, suffered a massive stroke early Sunday morning and was pronounced "clinically dead."

He was confined in the intensive care unit of the hospital, where he was barely kept alive by life-support systems.

It was earlier reported that Belmonte's siblings – Danny, Cesar, Beth and Jeffrey – would have to decide when to pull the plug from the respirator after the actor was given by his doctors only 48 hours.

"But his siblings didn't have to do anything, Jesse just went on his own," Tirso said.

Belmonte's eldest son, Renzo Cruz (formerly known as Wowie), was at his father's bedside when the actor passed away.

The actor's siblings and other close family members were also in the hospital.

However, Belmonte's two children, Sheryl and Patrick, who are both based in San Francisco, gave word to their relatives here that they could not come home for the interment.

"I want to let people know how good Tito Jesse was as a person," Belmonte's niece, singer-actress Geneva Cruz, told the INQUIRER. "But it's sad to know that his children didn't see that. They never deserve Tito to be their dad."

Belmonte complained of a headache last Sunday while in his house in BF Parañaque. He was rushed to a 24-hour clinic but was later brought to the Parañaque Medical Center when his blood pressure shot up.

He suffered severe cerebral hemorrhage. His pulmonary-cardiologist was Dr. Rodolfo Carungin.

Belmonte's former wife, Rosemarie Sonora, has remarried in the US. She is also based in San Francisco.

Before his death, Belmonte was part of the cast of the ABS-CBN soap series, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," where he played the husband of Helen Gamboa.

Belmonte was one of the biggest stars of the '60s. He was part of popular Stars of '66 of Sampaguita Pictures, with his former wife Rosemarie, Pepito Rodriguez, Gina Pareño, Shirley Moreno, Bert Leroy Jr., Roger Calvin, the late Loretta Marquez and the late Dindo Fernando.

Belmonte shifted to playing character roles in the '90s and starred with some of today's biggest action stars such as Rudy Fernandez, Phillip Salvador and Bong Revilla Jr.

Members of the Cruz family singing group, 747 Band, kept vigil in the hospital after their nightly performance at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

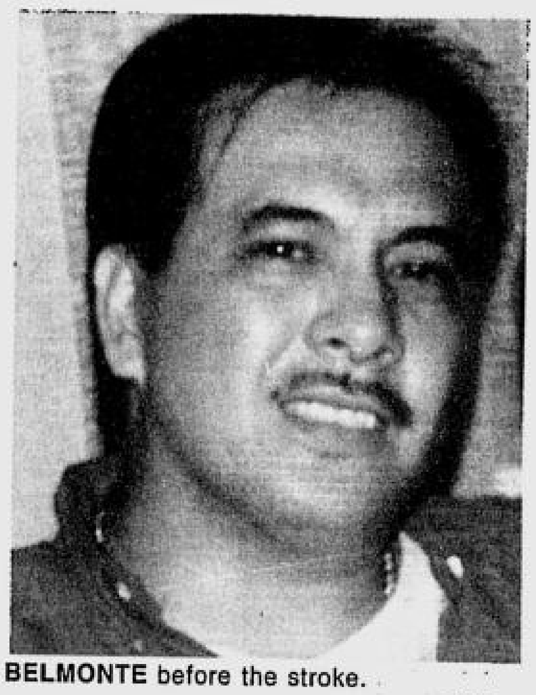
"Jesse pioneered the entrance of the Cruz family members in show biz," Tirso said. "He's a very private person and it's very hard to get something out of him, but he's a very nice and decent guy. He is a quiet guy but he's always fun to be with."

Geneva, meanwhile, remembers her uncle as a family man.

"Tito Jesse was very good to his kids and his family. He was a sensitive man and was very proud to know that he was already a grandfather," she said.

Belmonte's remains lie in state at the Loyola Funeral Parlor in Guadalupe, Makati. Interment will be on Sunday afternoon at Loyola Memorial Park in Parañaque.

THE ACTOR circa '70s.



BELMONTE before the stroke.

It's suicide; case closed

POLICE yesterday ruled out the possibility of foul play in the death of the son-in-law of alleged gambling lord Bong Pineda. Businessman Omar Victorino, 29, who was found dead at the carport of his house in North Greenhills Subdivision in San Juan last Sept. 21, was found positive of powder burns.

This indicated that Victorino had fired the gunshot that killed him, according to Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief. In the wake of the findings, De Gracia declared the death of Victorino a "closed case."

Agnes Donato

PAYATAS LEARNING CENTER

'Poverty just a state of mind'

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

WHENEVER 13-year-old Victoria Fuerte, a native of Payatas in Quezon City, walks into her classroom at Lagro High School, she wears a confident smile.

Unlike most of her poor classmates, mostly her neighbors at the Payatas garbage dumpsite, in Quezon City, she is armed with a deep sense of purpose.

She sees hope beyond the mountainous garbage dump.

"Poverty is just a state of mind," Victoria told the INQUIRER in a recent interview. "I know someday my life would be better."

She and her "lola" make ends meet with a P1,500 monthly pension.

Part of her optimism is obviously being fueled by the many skills she has acquired compared to most of her classmates.

Victoria and 419 other scholars of the Mother of Divine Providence Parish regularly attend free tutorials at the Blessed Luigi Orione Library and Computer Center, a "state-of-the-art" educational facility established early this year in Phase A of Payatas.

Barely five months into the tutorials, Victoria has become computer literate and a wide reader. These abilities have set her apart from her classmates. Needless to say, Victoria has become confident about herself.

Conquering it

"One effective way of conquering poverty is to believe that you can conquer it," says Efren Castanares, 38, parish service coordinator.

Many residents of Payatas could have remained poor partly out of sheer pessimism, he adds.

Curiously, the barangay's name itself could be well suited for the prevailing poverty in the area.

The barangay, he explains, got its name from the words "Payat sa Itaas," which early settlers used to refer to the barren piece of sloping land now occupied by around 100,000 poor residents in Quezon City.

That, in a way, explains why Payatas became a dumpsite.

When Argentinian missionary priest Fr. Luciano Felloni first came to Payatas 10 years ago, he was met by timid children who hid their young faces in innocence and hopelessness.

Parents, on the other hand, were somehow skeptical. They thought the visitor was just "another" foreign priest observing the plight of the poor.

Felloni and his fellow missionaries from the Sons of Divine Providence Congregation however knew the task at hand.

Making a difference

Castanares recalls that the priest wanted to make a difference and "make people understand how the Church and the school could change their lives.

"Some people may have been so used to poverty that they seemed to have forgotten how it was to dream," Castanares surmises.

A year after his arrival, Felloni established a scholarship program if only to give the poorest of the poor in Payatas a shot at a better life.

The scholarship was named after Blessed Luigi Orione, founder of the congregation that has been providing pastoral care in the parish since 1991.

"The best way to win the battle against poverty is through good education," Castanes says. "That's why we're trying to make education among the priorities of the families here."

The educational program was not at all ambitious for Felloni. He simply wanted to wipe away that timid look in the faces of Payatas children and replace this with an aura of fresh hope. He wanted to produce children who could compete—and succeed—in life despite their poverty.

The program initially had 200 elementary and high school scholars. The number has ballooned to 420.

To ensure that scholars would finish their education, the parish shoulders their expenses for transportation, uniform, school materials and fees. The families help in the program by shelling out P25 a week. The contribution enables them to shoulder half the expenses for their children's education.

After the students have graduated from high school, the parish looks for sponsors from the government and private sectors to help the scholars finish a college course.

Students usually take up "practical" courses like Computer Science, Education, Engineering, and Maritime Studies, since their immediate goal is to support their families, Castanares says.

But despite the benefits of the scholarship program, parish organizers realized a crucial problem.

They have no way of regularly monitoring the scholars' academic performance since scholars visit the parish office only once a month to get their allowance, Castanares says.

In fact, a number of students cannot attend their classes simply because they don't have money for their jeepney fare. Some scholars often spend the allowance they receive from the parish to buy food for their families.

The schools where scholars go to are also either too far from Payatas or too congested for decent learning.

Busy and cramped

Brenda Bacusmo, 19, takes up Industrial Education at the Technological University of the Philippines in faraway Taft Avenue in Manila. She usually arrives home at 11 p.m. and practically has no time to review her lessons.

Elementary scholars go to five public schools in the barangay. There they wrestle with around 70 other pupils in a classroom. Three-hour classes are held in three shifts daily from Monday to Saturday.

Loreto Tayamora, 15, a sophomore at Lagro High School, attends classes from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays to Saturdays. He shares a decrepit classroom with around 60 other students and has yet to own a textbook.

"It's hard to study in school," he says in Filipino. "We barely understand the lessons because there are too many students and there are not enough books for everyone."

Felloni's dream of a highly literate Payatas suffered a big blow when scholars began failing entrance tests for elementary and high school students.

Not one of the scholars has passed the entrance exams for Ateneo and the University of the Philippines, touted as the "dream schools" of most high school graduates, according to Castanares.

To address the problem, the parish set up three learning centers where volunteer students and teachers from the Ateneo University conduct tutorial classes for Payatas scholars. The centers are located in the chapels of Saint Benedict, Holy Family, and Litex.

Crowning glory

The crowning glory of the scholarship program, however, was the establishment of the Blessed Luigi Orione Library and Computer Center in April. Funded by a US$30,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, the center is the first of its kind in Payatas, according to Castanares.

Outside the center looks like a typical day-care center no more than the size of two regular classrooms.

Inside the air-conditioned center are hi-tech computer facilities, an extensive collection of books, and a wealth of opportunities up for grabs for Payatas children.

The center is open from Monday to Saturday, providing free lessons in English, mathematics, philosophy, basic computer applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint, and free Internet access, according to Maritess Tayamora, 27, custodian of the computer center.

It has 10 sets of computers all hooked on the Internet, 40 CD-ROMs, and at least 2,378 books ranging from encyclopedias and other reference materials to classic, modern, and popular fiction.

The library has two sets of Grolier's International, Science and Children, and Kingfisher History encyclopedias donated by the United Way Philippines Foundation, according to librarian Philip Magtulis, 25.

Other reading materials—from Bob Woodward's "Veil," Strunk and White's "Elements of Style," "English and Western Literature," to books on logic and the humanities—were donated by the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chinese-Filipino Business Club, and the Ford Foundation.

Scholars also get to read copies of Time and National Geographic magazines.

Five months since the establishment of the library and computer center, project organizers, now headed by Fr. Orlando Norniella, are seeing Felloni's dream taking shape.

"Scholars have become articulate," Castanares beams. "They are beginning to develop their critical thinking and that's a good start."

Victoria and Loreto, two of the more diligent parish scholars, are on top of their classes primarily because of hard work and their exposure to the sound educational program.

Today, Castanares and other project officers take pride in seeing Payatas children—those poor children—walking tall and aiming high.

JOANBONDOC

AT THE Blessed Luigi Orione Library and Computer Center, Victoria Fuerte, Efren Castanares, Loreto Tayamora and Philip Magtugis get immersed in a world of learning as they arm themselves against life's bigger challenges.

WAZZZZUP? ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	AEGIS NXT PAGE / FIGURE 8	P 250 CONSUMABLE 373.7181/373.5110
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TROPICAL FOREST Cafe · Grill · Restaurant	BAD CATS	☎400.7438/39
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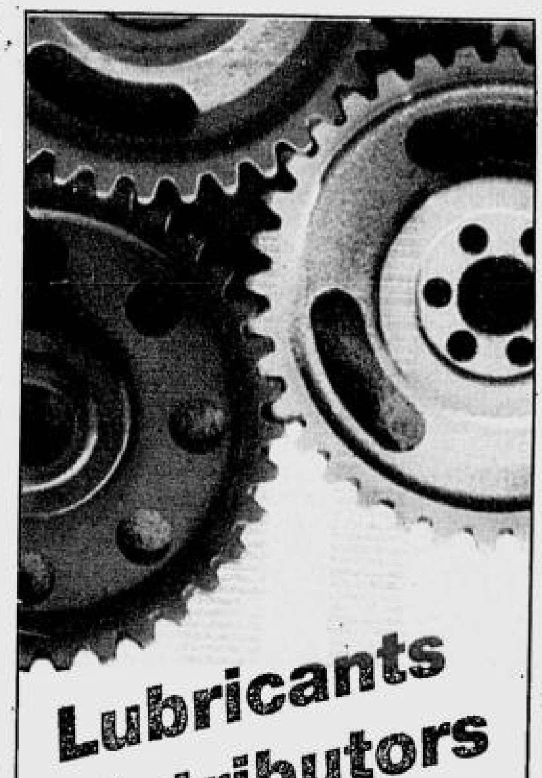

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elf

Japanese jailed for 'bottle-feeding' baby

GERALD G. LACUARTA

"REVILING and sick" was how Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo described the acts of a Japanese pedophile who was arrested the other day for molesting an 8-month-old niece of his Filipino girlfriend in Parañaque City.

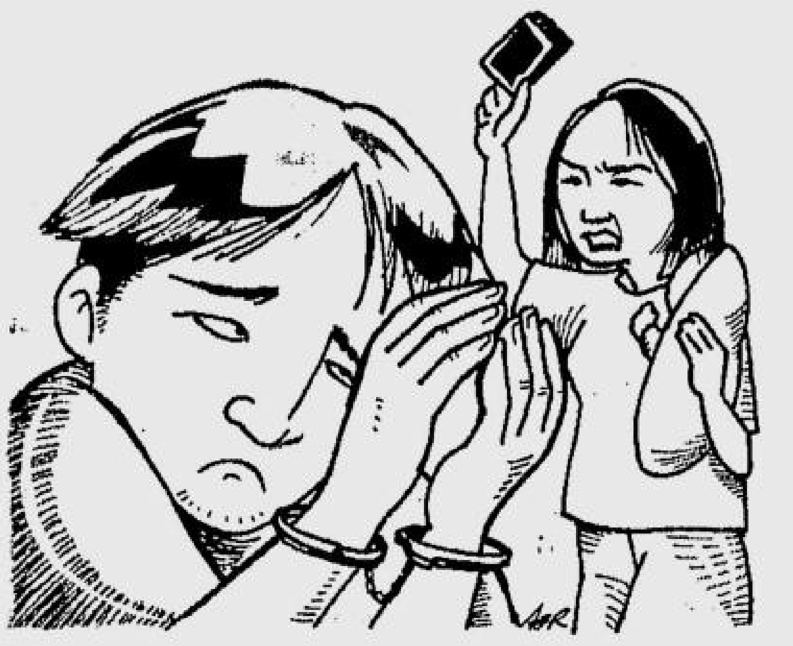
Suspect Yukitoshi Matsushita, 53, was caught on video on Oct. 1 in the act of "bottle-feeding" the baby with his sex organ. Unknown to him, his 25-year-old live-in partner, Jessica Ebo, had planted a hidden camera after she became suspicious as the baby would vomit and cry whenever she was left to the care of the Japanese.

Domingo said she had ordered the arrest of Matsushita upon the request of the ABS-CBN Bantay Bata Foundation and the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group which received a complaint from Ebo.

It was learned that the baby was the only daughter of Ebo's elder sister, a widower, who left the baby to the care of Ebo as she was better off since she received a monthly allowance of P12,000 from Matsushita.

Matsushita was meek as a lamb when presented to media at the BI yesterday, although Domingo said the Japanese was vehemently denying the charges in broken English during a confrontation after his arrest last Tuesday.

"He only stopped denying when we told him there was a video footage catching him in the act," Domingo said. "You would want to kill him if you saw the video."



The footage, caught by a camera hidden in a laundry hamper inside the bedroom, showed Matsushita undressing and masturbating, and later inserting his organ into the baby's mouth until he ejaculated.

Domingo said she almost threw a paperweight at the Japanese upon seeing the footage. "It's reviling and sick, and only an evil man can do that kind of thing," she said.

Ebo had submitted the video footage to authorities as evidence. She was not around when Matsushita was presented to the media yesterday.

Matsushita was arrested Tuesday afternoon by members of the BI special operations team at his residence in Block 1, Papa Pio Guerrero compound, San Antonio Valley, Sucat, Parañaque City.

He was brought to the Department of Justice yesterday morning where he was charged with rape and child molestation and was later turned over to the PNP CIDG where he would remain in custody while undergoing trial.

Supt. Lino Calingasan, acting BI intelligence chief, said Matsushita was unable to present any travel document when arrested, except for a photocopy of his passport which showed he arrived in Manila on Sept. 23. Records showed he has tourist visa.

He also presented a photocopy of his plane ticket showing he was scheduled to leave the country this coming Sunday.

Ebo said Matsushita has been her boyfriend for four years and had been in and out of the country during that period.

Air-con units found a common denominator in virus outbreak

BY NELSON FLORES

ALL local government units and the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board were enjoined yesterday to pass an ordinance that would require operators of air conditioned establishments and public utility vehicles to install filters and ionizing machines to ensure air purity and prevent the outbreak of airborne diseases.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. made the request a day after suspected influenza virus infected hundreds of school children from a number of exclusive schools in Metro Manila.

He said reports reaching his office indicate that the outbreak was particularly severe among children attending classes in rooms with air condition units.

Abalos said that initial investigation by the Department of Health showed that air-conditioned classrooms are the common denominator of all the schools affected by the outbreak. He further noted that no outbreak was reported in government-run schools in Metro Manila.

According to Abalos, air-conditioning units aggravated the situation as they use recycled air in cooling enclosed spaces. He said the recycled air acts in spreading the virus.

"With the use of air filters and ionizing machines, harmful elements in the air would be reduced to tolerable levels if not totally eradicated," Abalos said.

7 get life for killing trader

SEVEN men, including a Chinese-Filipino businessman and a former policeman, were sentenced to life imprisonment on Tuesday for killing a businessman from Guiguinto, Bulacan in 1997.

Judge Gregorio Sampaga of the Malolos Regional Trial Court also meted out an additional six to 10 years imprisonment to the accused for attempting to kidnap Gordon Morales Tan, manager of the family-owned shoe factory Expo and Footjoy Shoe and Rubberband Companies in Barangay Cruz, Guiguinto.

On Nov. 24, 1997, the seven men shot and killed Tan when the latter fought back and refused to go with them.

Convicted were Nelson Chua Go, Diosdado Avila, Josefino Galve, former policeman Danilo Reyes, Rodolfo de la Paz, Pablo Amora Jr. and Teodoro Doble.

Go was Tan's former business associate while the other convicts were Tan's former suppliers of plastic scraps.

In a 24-page decision, Sampaga ordered each of the convicts to pay P100,000 in damages to Tan's family.

Sampaga also ordered the arrest of Julito Flores, Jun Mesina and Danilo Corpin, who were tried in absentia. The three men also received six to 10 years imprisonment for the attempted kidnapping of Tan.

The court, however, acquitted one of the accused, Armando Pablo, of murder and attempted kidnapping charges due to lack of evidence. *By Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Lastimoso is exonerated

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has acquitted retired four-star police general Roberto Lastimoso, former Philippine National Police chief, on charges that he tried to order the release of a suspected drug trafficker.

Charges of coddling a drug lord led to Lastimoso's humiliating relief as PNP chief. When he eventually retired, Lastimoso was a beaten man: he not only was reinstated as PNP chief, he was also facing graft charges before the anti-graft court.

"The acquittal means a lot to me, Mon, because my name has been cleared," Lastimoso told me yesterday, his eyes misty. "Many people thought, even my friends, that I coddled drug traffickers."

***

The man behind the false charges was his successor, Panfilo Lacson, now a senator.

Read on if you want to know why.

***

The men who filed the charges against Lastimoso were Supt. Francisco Villaroman, who was at that time chief of the Region 4 office of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group; and Supt. Rolando R. Anonuevo, intelligence chief of Police Regional Office 4, based at Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna.

The two officers said that the former PNP chief ordered them to release Rafael Madrazo who, they claimed, were trying to sell two kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

But the Sandiganbayan, in acquitting Lastimoso, said there was no evidence that he did try to order the release of Madrazo.

***

Here's the inside story on the Madrazo's "buy-bust" by Villaroman and Anonuevo:

Lastimoso had recommended Madrazo to Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, then the PNP chief of intelligence, as a deep penetration agent (DPA).

Lastimoso wanted to know the extent of the drug problem through Madrazo, who was involved in the illegal drug trade. That proved to be his undoing.

Lacson and his henchmen, subsequent events later showed, were into the drug trade. They didn't want to be found out.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

***

Lacson, who was chief of the discredited Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), feared that with Madrazo working for the PNP intelligence division, he and his men would be exposed.

So they conspired to frame Madrazo. By framing Madrazo, they would also implicate his handler, Lastimoso.

Although Villaroman and Anonuevo were from Region 4, they "busted" Madrazo in Parañaque City which was not their jurisdiction. Parañaque is under the National Capital Region Police Office.

***

Subsequent testimonies by witnesses showed that the two kilos of shabu that Madrazo reportedly was in possession of when he was caught came from Remus Garganera.

Garganera was a henchman of Supt. John Campos, another Lacson man. Garganera alleged that he kept seized shabu to be "recycled" or sold later by Campos and his group. Garganera said that the two kilos of shabu that were "planted" on Madrazo were "borrowed" by Villaroman from Campos.

Garganera is now under the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

***

But, wait a minute, folks, I'd like to tell you an inside-inside story on why Lacson wanted Lastimoso framed: he was jealous of Lastimoso becoming close to President Erap.

When Erap took over as president in 1998, the post of PNP chief was up for grabs. Many very competent police full-fledged colonels and generals were being considered for the post.

Lacson, who was Erap's fair-haired boy, was eyeing the top PNP post himself, but he was either too young or too junior then. So, he got Lastimoso as his "stand-in" while he ripened himself up for the No. 1 PNP post.

***

Lacson, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971, chose Lastimoso, of PMA Class 1967, a virtual unknown. Up until then, Lastimoso held staff positions and in regional offices in Mindanao.

Because he recommended Lastimoso to Erap, Lacson expected to make Lastimoso his puppet on strings.

Lastimoso once complained to this writer when he was still the PNP chief: "Mistah, I can't assign or relieve officers without the permission of Lacson." Mistah is PMA word for classmate. I'm an adopted member of PMA Class 1967.

***

Eventually, however, Lastimoso was able to wend himself up to Erap because of his accomplishments. Under Lastimoso, the PNP's public ratings shot up.

One day, Erap told Lastimoso in front of Lacson: "*O, sige*, PNP chief *ka hanggang sa pagtapos ng* term *ko sa* 2004 (You'll become PNP chief until my term ends in 2004)." This meant that Erap would extend Lastimoso's term even after his retirement date.

That statement from Erap apparently made Lacson nervous. His plan to become the youngest PNP chief ever would come to naught. The top PNP post, my sources said, would be Lacson's springboard to his presidential candidacy in 2004.

That's the long and short of it.

***

A postscript: I heard about the plan by Lacson's men to put Lastimoso in disgrace. I didn't know how they would do it, but I heard about it.

So, I approached Ping Lacson, being close to him at the time, to dissuade his men from going on with the plan. I also mentioned that I heard he wanted to replace Lastimoso even before Lastimoso's retirement date.

Since I considered him a close friend then, I ribbed him about his big hurry to replace Lastimoso.

Lacson just kept quiet. I didn't know that my banter offended him.

Palace approves hike in Metro water rates

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

MALACAÑANG finally approved the petition of Maynilad Water Services Inc. to raise water rates by P4.21 per cubic meter.

In a press briefing, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's board of trustees gave the go-signal for the approval of the contract that would pave the way for the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water to increase its rates starting Oct. 15.

"But again, I'm emphasizing the NEDA would have to acknowledge it," Tiglao said when asked if it was reviewed.

Asked if it was approved by Malacañang, Tiglao said it was.

"Not the rate increase, but the new amended contract which specifies certain rate increases," he quickly added in an apparent bid to soften the blow.

Maynilad originally asked for a P4.71 per cubic meter increase, but this was turned down by President Macapagal-Arroyo several months ago.

Yesterday, Tiglao explained that what Ms Macapagal wanted was a "gradual" increase in the water rate.

"Her statement was that it could only be gradual," Tiglao said. "She asked the NEDA board and MWSS that, considering the hard times, any increase would have to be gradual. It can't be the kind of (increase) Maynilad wanted."

There are reports that the Ayala-owned Manila Water Co. is also planning to raise their water rates.

Maynilad's customers will be paying an average monthly water rate of P200, up from P150 or an increase of 60 percent.

The increase is meant to offset Maynilad's financial losses amounting to P2.606 billion due to the peso's depreciation against the US dollar.

In a resolution, the MWSS will also allow Maynilad to adjust their water tariffs in the event of currency fluctuations.

The Department of Finance will review the MWSS resolution.

Maynilad, a joint venture between the Lopez Group and Ondeo Philippines, formerly Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France, services Metro Manila's west zone which includes Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

Blame it on Bin Laden, Pasay official says

BY NELSON FLORES

THE PASAY City government blamed the recent terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. for its failure to release the pork barrel funds of local legislators.

Concepcion Daplas, Pasay City treasurer, told newsmen that because of the terrorist attacks and the current economic crisis, the city government lost millions of pesos in earnings. This was why local officials failed to release the P1.4 million special project funds to the councilors.

Daplas denied she is withholding the fund to embarrass political figures opposed to Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

Councilor Arvin Tolentino, a known political opponent of Trinidad, accused Daplas of harassment, saying that the funds exist, but only political figures close to the ruling administration are benefiting from it.

He said Daplas refused to release his SPF amounting to P150,000 despite repeated demands.

Tolentino said the money was meant for a medical mission to serve poor residents of the city.

The United States has pinned the blame for the recent terror attacks on Osama bin Laden, a fanatical Muslim who finances terror organizations worldwide.

Three jetliners demolished the 110-story twin tower World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon defense complex in Washington D.C.

When asked for comment, Trinidad said the SPF is actually the city council's local version of the controversial pork barrel funds of the House of Representatives.

He said SPF is being used by the city councilors for activities other than their sworn legislative duties.

Robbers get wrong key, hit customers instead

WHEN crewmembers of a fast-food outlet turned over to armed robbers the wrong key to the cash register, they saved the restaurant's earnings but customers lost their cash and valuables to the culprits.

Ten armed men tried to hold up the Wendy's Burgers branch in Sampaloc, Manila Tuesday night, but were forced to rob the customers when they failed to open the vault and cash register.

Police estimated that the robbers fled with about P50,000 in cash, personal jewelry and mobile phones.

Supt. Amador Pabustan, Western Police District Station 4 commander, said the unidentified suspects, armed with .38-caliber pistols, barged into the two-story restaurant on Dapitan Street around 11 p.m. and announced a holdup.

Police said two of the suspects seized the service weapon of security guard Arnel Tumamao and ordered the restaurant crew and customers to lie on the floor.

But the heist went wrong when the cashier gave the wrong key to the cash register. The suspects could not also open the vault because they reportedly mixed up the keys they took from the crew and the operations manager, police said.

The suspects then turned to the customers, mostly University of Sto. Tomas students and hospital employees, robbing them one by one at gunpoint.

Residents of a condominium unit on the third floor were spared from the robbery by the arrival of the restaurant's delivery van, which the suspects thought was a police car.

They quickly left the establishment and fled south. Station 4 policemen later arrived to investigate the theft.

Pabustan said this was the fourth robbery reported this year involving the fast-food outlet and its customers.

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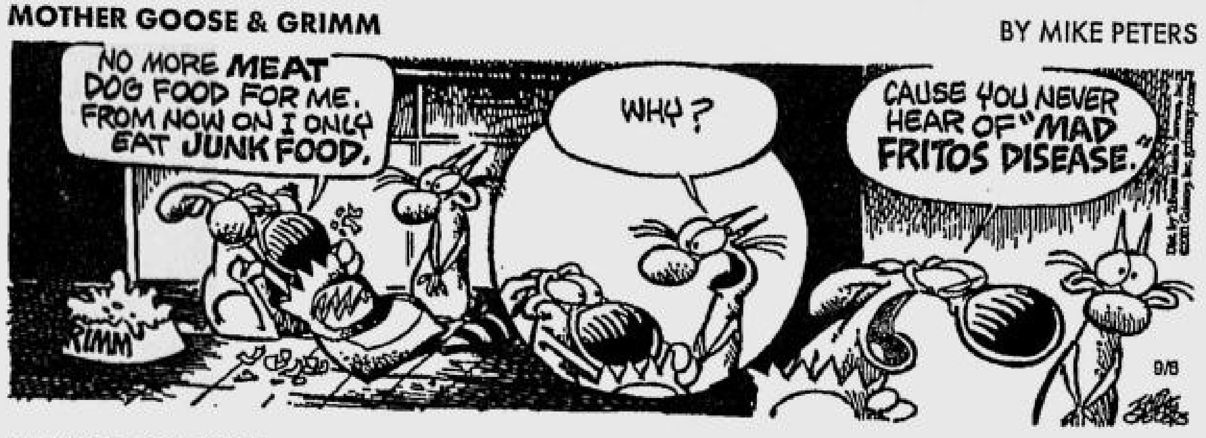
News that makes
a difference

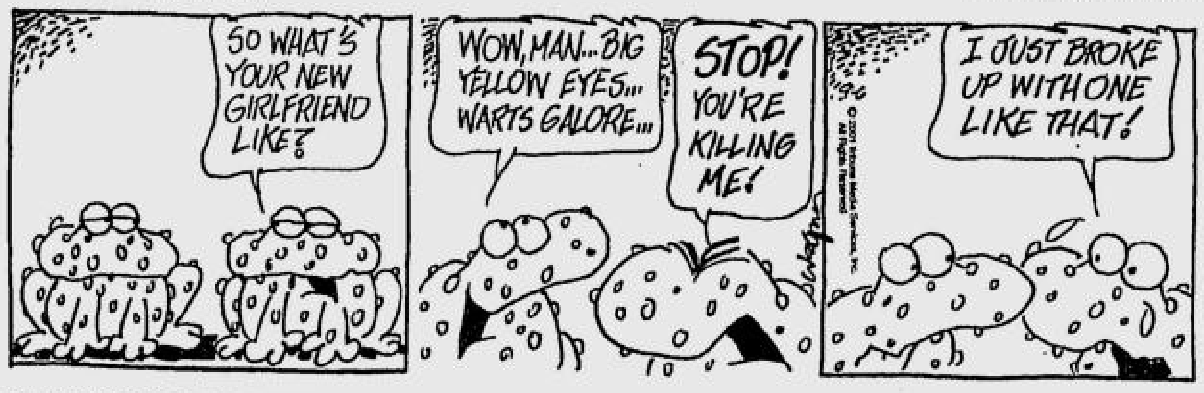
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


NO MORE MEAT DOG FOOD FOR ME. FROM NOW ON I ONLY EAT JUNK FOOD.
WHY?
CAUSE YOU NEVER HEAR OF "MAD FRITOS DISEASE."
GRIMM
9/8

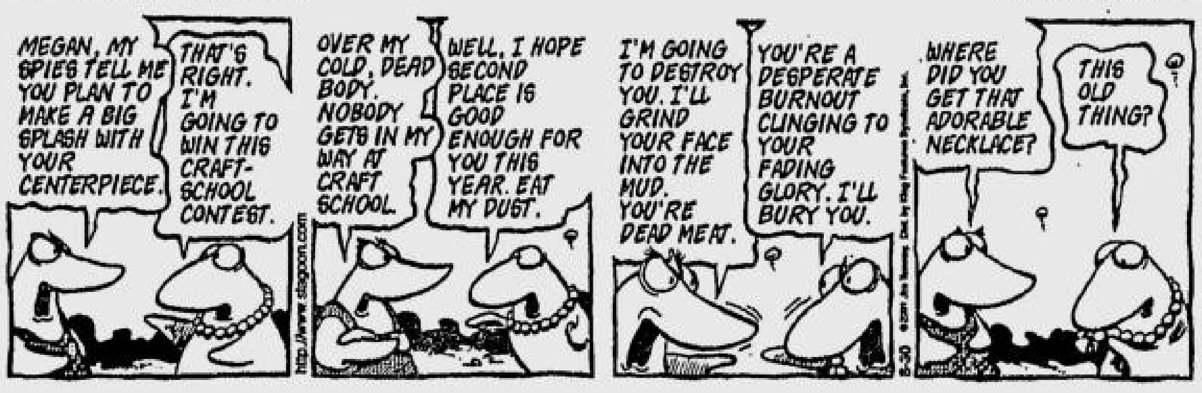
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SO WHAT'S YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND LIKE?
WOW, MAN...BIG YELLOW EYES... WARTS GALORE...
STOP! YOU'RE KILLING ME!
I JUST BROKE UP WITH ONE LIKE THAT!
9-6

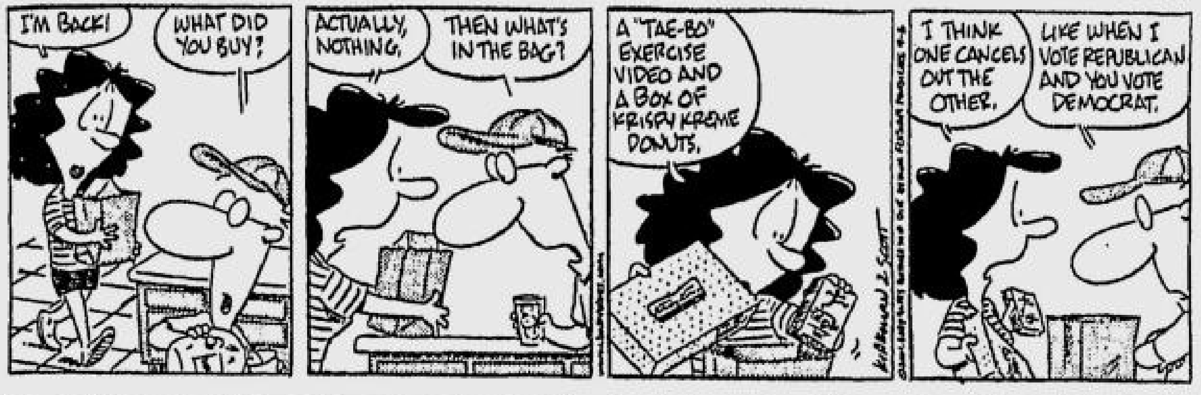
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MEGAN, MY SPIES TELL ME YOU PLAN TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH WITH YOUR CENTERPIECE.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M GOING TO WIN THIS CRAFT-SCHOOL CONTEST.
OVER MY COLD, DEAD BODY. NOBODY GETS IN MY WAY AT CRAFT SCHOOL.
WELL, I HOPE SECOND PLACE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU THIS YEAR. EAT MY DUST.
I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU. I'LL GRIND YOUR FACE INTO THE MUD. YOU'RE DEAD MEAT.
YOU'RE A DESPERATE BURNOUT CLINGING TO YOUR FADING GLORY. I'LL BURY YOU.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT ADORABLE NECKLACE?
THIS OLD THING?
http://www.slagoon.com
8-30

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M BACK!
WHAT DID YOU BUY?
ACTUALLY, NOTHING.
THEN WHAT'S IN THE BAG?
A "TAE-BO" EXERCISE VIDEO AND A BOX OF KRISPY KREME DONUTS.
I THINK ONE CANCELS OUT THE OTHER.
LIKE WHEN I VOTE REPUBLICAN AND YOU VOTE DEMOCRAT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anne Rice, Armand Assante, Susan Sarandon, Alicia Silverstone, Charlton Heston, Jackie Collins

Happy Birthday: You'll be charming, delightful and eager to please. Your outgoing nature and quick wit will draw attention and possibly lead to partnerships or romance. Follow through on your creative ideas and enjoy new experiences. Educational pursuits and travel pay off in additional knowledge. Your numbers: 1, 4, 6, 12, 27, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Discuss your future goals with established colleagues. Make sure you don't overload your plate or take on too many responsibilities at home. The problems of relatives or friends could bog you down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plan a fun-filled vacation. Putting in some overtime or going for interviews could lead to professional advancement.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Something's going on behind your back. Be careful what you say to whom. Be your fun-loving self to stay out of trouble and in everyone's good books. Keep secrets or face the consequences.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to meet new people. Volunteer work will take your mind off your own problems and introduce you to caring individuals in the process.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Try not to let personal problems sidetrack you or interfere with work. If you weren't listening to instructions, you will be lost.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be in a learning cycle today. Travel and communication should be on the agenda. Put your heart into work to achieve results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on earning money and not on fast cash. You can prosper through research and hard work. Read the fine print before signing a contract that could cost you dearly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Romance and the possibility of a commitment are in the air. You may come into money if you invest prudently. This is a good day to make improvements at home that will increase its value.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have business opportunities today. If you treat a peer well, he or she will be a loyal ally now and in the future. Don't forget to express your appreciation for the help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Revive some hobbies you used to find so relaxing. Spend more time with family and friends. Let children know how much you care. This is a great day for entertainment.

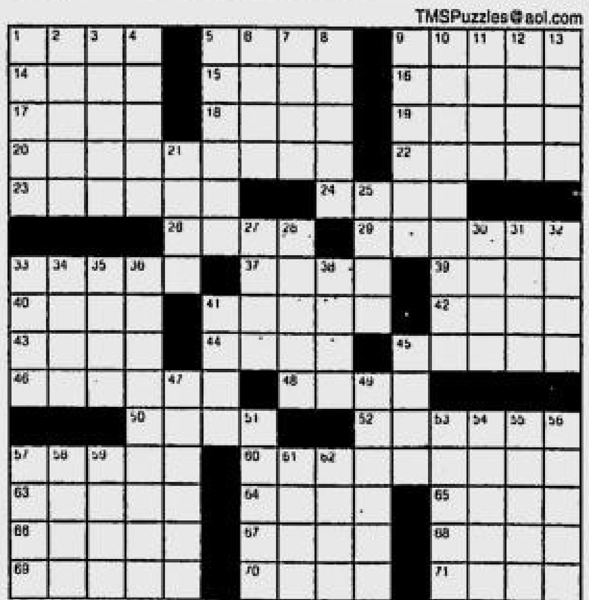
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're under each other's feet at home. Try to stay organized and refuse to argue with those more apt to fly off the handle. You may need to find a quiet corner and rest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can benefit from travel and group encounters with individuals you can learn from. The more intellectually stimulating the conversation, the better. You may discover solutions to your problems.

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, sturdy and stable, determined to achieve your goals. You are a thinker and will always be thorough.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

8/20/01

ACROSS
1 Light knocks
5 Lamenter's cry
9 Channel of politicos
14 Hideous
15 Fast time
16 Midwest airport
17 Lascivious look
18 Golden rule word
19 Burrowing mammals
20 Rhyme about letters
22 Brilliance
23 Achieve
24 Composer Satie
26 Babe and Porky
29 As a joke
33 Stringed instruments
37 Floating platform
39 Ersatz butter
40 Gen. Bradley
41 Heavy rope
42 Family group
43 __ Strauss
44 Proficient
45 Ocean ray
46 Free from an obligation
48 Montreal player
50 Adamson's lioness
52 Romes, e.g.
57 Actress Scacchi
60 Rhyme about an equal portion
63 Accounts inspection
64 Hue
65 Ms. Bancroft
66 Slippery buildup
67 Border
68 Lose traction
69 Rose and Sampras
70 Marsh plant
71 Looks at

DOWN
1 Oklahoma city
2 Go-between
3 Skirt fold
4 Aleppo's country
5 Degree holders
6 Olin or Horne
7 Not pro
8 Purloined
9 Enter!
10 Rhyme about Howard Stern
11 Shroud of gloom
12 Neighborhood
13 Egg holder
21 Cup brims
25 Solemn ceremony
27 Seize
28 Weasel's kin
30 Actress Raines
31 Bench or bucket
32 Color variation
33 Aperture
34 NYSE alternative
35 Spout nonsense
36 Rhyme about evening TV
38 Display muscle
41 Andrew Lloyd Webber hit
45 Pacifying offers
47 Shallow dishes
49 Separated
51 Following
53 Lunar aspect
54 Long and lean
55 Banks of baseball
56 Burpee buy
57 Huff and puff
58 Hold sway
59 Prune text
61 Assistant
62 "Bus Stop" playwright

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	R	A	I	L	■	S	T	O	O	P	B	A	L	L
H	E	N	N	A	■	C	O	L	L	E	A	G	U	E
E	V	I	C	T	■	E	N	D	E	A	R	I	N	G
R	E	M	O	T	E	N	E	S	S	■	■	T	E	L
E	N	A	M	E	L	E	D	■	■	A	B	A	T	E
O	G	L	E	R	S	■	■	A	B	B	O	T	T	S
N	E	S	S	■	■	S	Q	U	E	E	G	E	E	S
■	■	■	■	A	M	O	U	N	T	S	■	■	■	■
T	E	S	T	P	I	L	O	T	■	■	S	H	O	T
I	N	H	A	S	T	E	■	■	D	E	T	O	U	R
G	R	E	B	E	■	■	J	E	A	N	E	T	T	E
R	O	E	■	■	B	R	O	A	D	C	A	S	T	S
E	U	R	O	P	E	A	N	S	■	A	R	E	A	S
S	T	E	R	I	L	I	Z	E	■	S	N	A	K	E
S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	D	■	E	S	T	E	S

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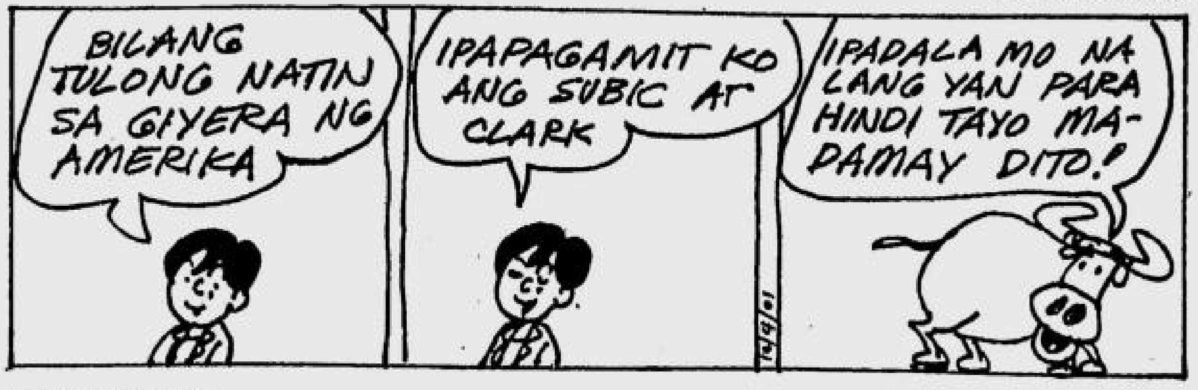
8/20/01

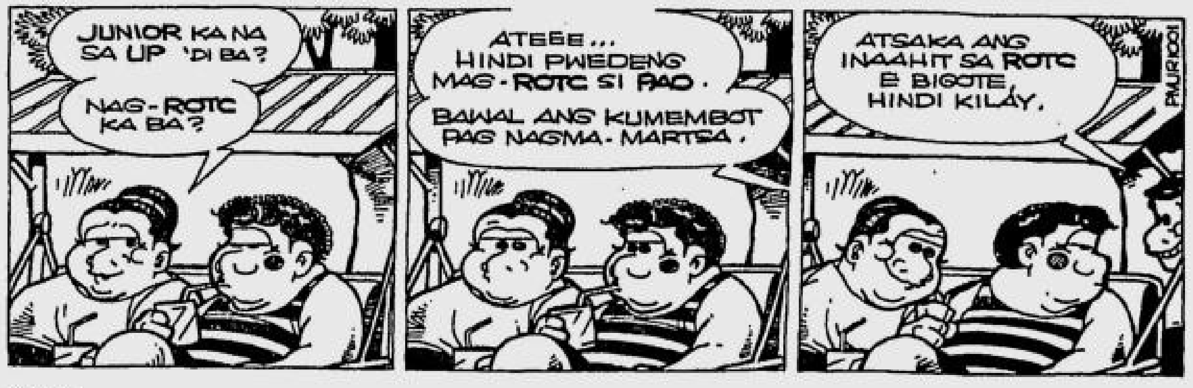
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BILANG TULONG NATIN SA GIYERA NG AMERIKA
IPAPAGAMIT KO ANG SUBIC AT CLARK
IPADALA MO NA LANG YAN PARA HINDI TAYO MADAMAY DITO!
10/4/01

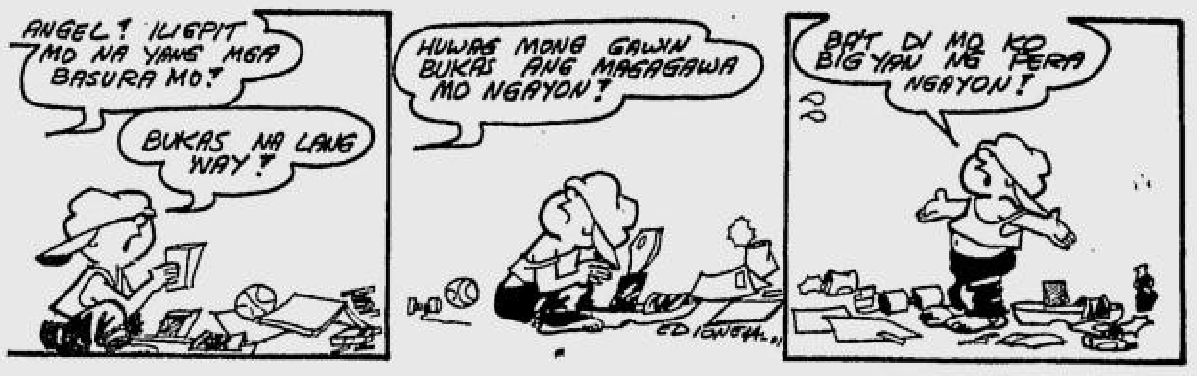
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


JUNIOR KA NA SA UP 'DI BA?
NAG-ROTC KA BA?
ATEEE... HINDI PWEDENG MAG-ROTC SI PAO.
BAWAL ANG KUMEMBOT PAG NAGMA-MARTSA.
ATSAKA ANG INAAHIT SA ROTC E BIGOTE, HINDI KILAY.
PMJR'01

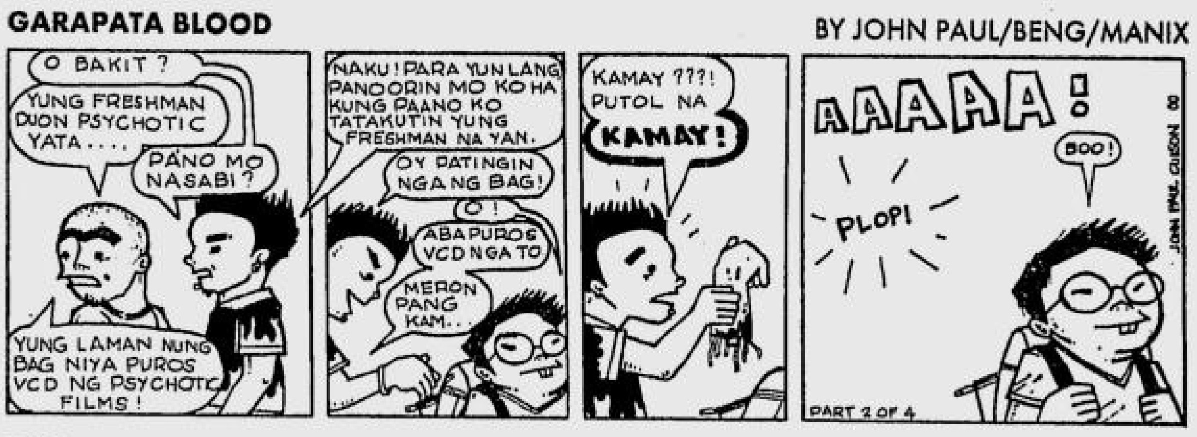
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL! ILIGPIT MO NA YANG MGA BASURA MO!
BUKAS NA LANG WAY!
HUWAG MONG GAWIN BUKAS ANG MAGAGAWA MO NGAYON!
BA'T DI MO KO BIGYAN NG PERA NGAYON!
EDIONELA.01

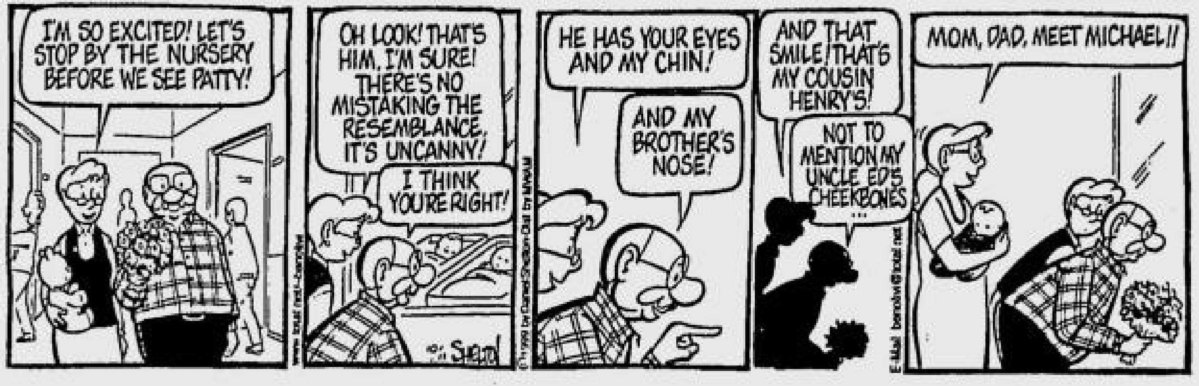
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


O BAKIT?
YUNG FRESHMAN DUON PSYCHOTIC YATA....
PANO MO NASABI?
YUNG LAMAN NUNG BAG NIYA PUROS VCD NG PSYCHOTIC FILMS!
NAKU! PARA YUN LANG PANOORIN MO KO HA KUNG PAANO KO TATAKUTIN YUNG FRESHMAN NA YAN.
OY PATINGIN NGA NG BAG!
O!
ABAPUROS VCD NGA TO
MERON PANG KAM...
KAMAY ???! PUTOL NA KAMAY!
AAAAA!
PLOP!
BOO!
PART 2 OF 4
JOHN PAUL GUISON 00

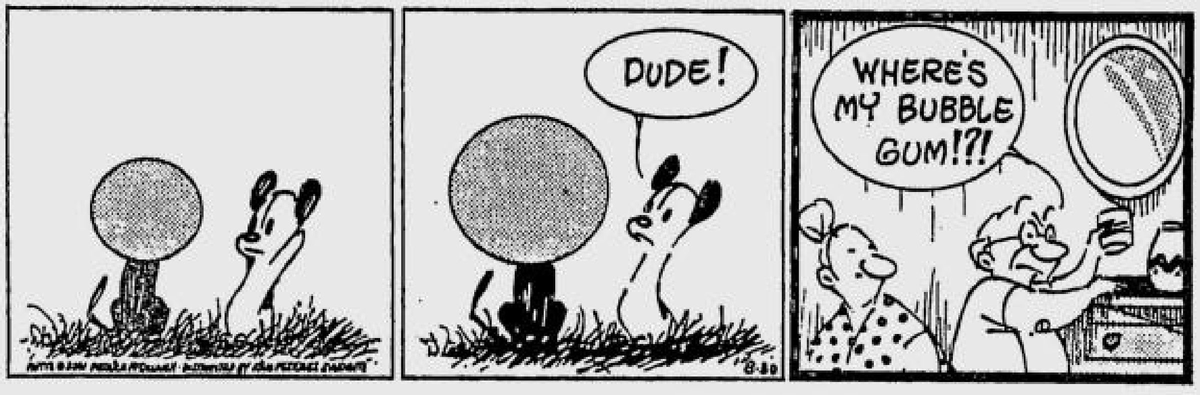
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M SO EXCITED! LET'S STOP BY THE NURSERY BEFORE WE SEE PATTY!
OH LOOK! THAT'S HIM. I'M SURE! THERE'S NO MISTAKING THE RESEMBLANCE. IT'S UNCANNY!
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!
HE HAS YOUR EYES AND MY CHIN!
AND MY BROTHER'S NOSE!
AND THAT SMILE! THAT'S MY COUSIN HENRY'S!
NOT TO MENTION MY UNCLE ED'S CHEEKBONES...
MOM, DAD, MEET MICHAEL!!
SHELTON

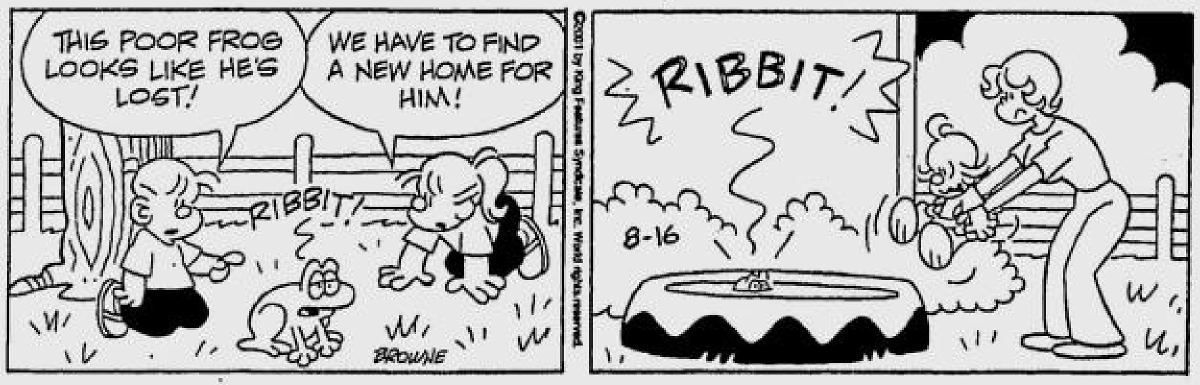
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DUDE!
WHERE'S MY BUBBLE GUM!?!
8-30

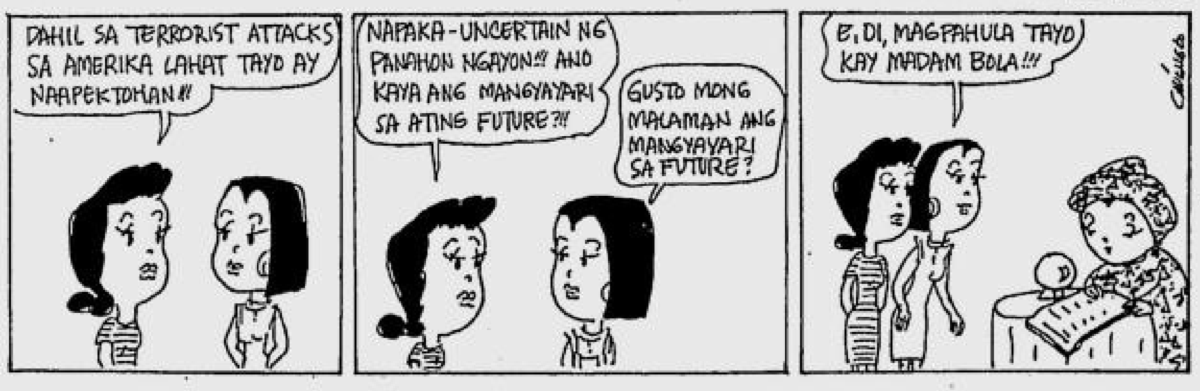
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THIS POOR FROG LOOKS LIKE HE'S LOST!
WE HAVE TO FIND A NEW HOME FOR HIM!
RIBBIT!
RIBBIT!
8-16
BROWNE

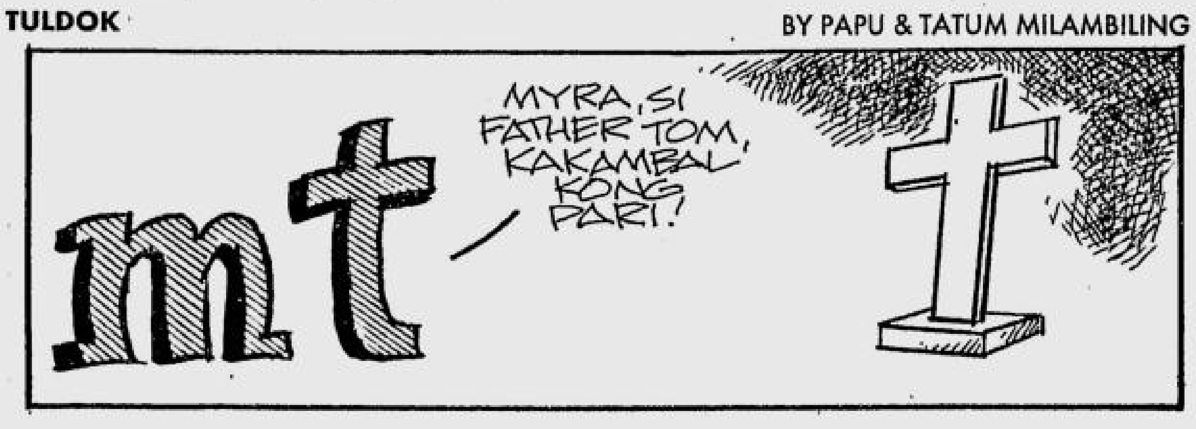
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DAHIL SA TERRORIST ATTACKS SA AMERIKA LAHAT TAYO AY NAAPEKTOHAN!!
NAPAKA-UNCERTAIN NG PANAHON NGAYON!! ANO KAYA ANG MANGYAYARI SA ATING FUTURE?!!
GUSTO MONG MALAMAN ANG MANGYAYARI SA FUTURE?
E, DI, MAGPAHULA TAYO KAY MADAM BOLA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


MYRA, SI FATHER TOM, KAKAMBAL KONG PARI!
mt

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8	ST. FRANCIS VILLE

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11	ENEMY AT THE GATES
12	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

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6	KNIGHT'S TALE
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8	SCARY MOVIE 2
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	SISID
11	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
12	PRINCESS DIARIES

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3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
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5	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
6	HEART BREAKER
7	MR. NICE GUY
8	SISID
9	PRINCESS DIARIES
10	FAST & FURIOUS
11	LA VIDA ROSA
12	KNIGHT'S TALE

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3	LA VIDA ROSA
4	SISID

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

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2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	SISID
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
7	FAST & FURIOUS
8	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
9	MR. NICE GUY
10	KNIGHT'S TALE
11	ORIGINAL SIN
12	HEART BREAKER

SM SOUTHMALL
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2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	CLOSED
6	CLOSED
7	SISID
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

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3	ST. FRANCIS VILLE

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2	KNIGHT'S TALE
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4	ENEMY AT THE GATES
5	PUKYUTAN
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	ORIGINAL SIN

SM ILOILO
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1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
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5	CROCODILE 2
6	PRINCESS DIARIES
7	CLOSED
8	LA VIDA ROSA

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1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	HEART BREAKER
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	SISID

SM SUCAT
8294075

1	SISID
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	LA VIDA ROSA

SM DAVAO

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3	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	LA VIDA ROSA

GLORIETTA 4

1	PRINCESS DIARIES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	FAST & FURIOUS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	TOWN & COUNTRY (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	ORIGINAL SIN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	HEART BREAKERS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	FAST & FURIOUS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	HEART BREAKERS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	OGIE SINGS ALCASID OCT. 5 & 6 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	FAST & FURIOUS in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PRINCESS DIARIES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SISID in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	HEART BREAKERS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4 GOLD (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
8	SISID
9	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
10	LA VIDA ROSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	MR. NICE GUY
4	RESERVE
5	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
6 (DTS)	SISID
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 2000
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1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	SISID

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1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3	MR. NICE GUY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
5	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

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1	SISID
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	MR. NICE GUY
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	FAST & FURIOUS
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA
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(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

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1	A.I.
2	MANO MANO 2

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1	SISID
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	MR. NICE GUY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SISID
A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3	MR. NICE GUY
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	SISID
5	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
8 (SDDS)	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
9 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	SISID

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	BANYO QUEEN
6 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7 (DTS)	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
2	SISID
3	RESERVE
4	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
5 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DOLBY)	FAST & FURIOUS
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
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1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

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1	SISID

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1	SISID

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1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2	SISID
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	SISID

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3	MR. NICE GUY
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

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DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2	SISID
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	MR NICE GUY

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	SISID

Berma
tel 079.2029

1	SISID
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SISID
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2 (DTS)	SISID
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	HEART BREAKER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SISID
2 (DOLBY)	HEART BREAKER
3 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCREAM 2
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SISID
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
4 (DTS)	MR. NICE GUY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	HEART BREAKER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	HEART BREAKER
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	SCREAM 2

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Emperor
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1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	LA VIDA ROSA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	LA VIDA ROSA
4	SCARY MOVIE 2

Jade Cinema
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1 (DOLBY EX)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	HEART BREAKER
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4 (DTS ES)	FAST & FURIOUS

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4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	SISID
6	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	LA VIDA ROSA
9	ENEMY AT THE GATES
10	PRINCESS DIARIES

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	SISID
4	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
5	HEART BREAKER
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	RESERVE
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	SISID
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	ST. FRANCIS VILLE

IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	SISID

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	CROCODILE 2
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	MANO MANO 2

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SISID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MR. NICE GUY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAILS OF EROTICA / NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
ODEON	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
ODEON-2	MR. NICE GUY
ROBEN	SISID
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SISID
REMAR	SISID
REMAR-2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-4	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-5	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

GUANIO

Living life to the max

PIA Guanio wakes up at 3:30 a.m., tries to be in her office before 4:30 a.m., gets an average of 4 to 5 hours of sleep every day, responds effectively to the challenges of her demanding career, as well as finds time for friends and other interests?

"That has always been part of my lifestyle," Pia says. "I always set aside time for exercise because for your mental, physical and emotional sanity, you have to exercise no matter how busy you are.

"*Sayang* because most of us Filipinos don't feel that it's a very important aspect of our lives, but in fact, it is. It makes you more energetic because it gets your blood flowing. You feel better about yourself and you're a lot happier and more confident."

Twice a week, Pia goes straight to Makati from her early morning TV show for her one-on-one training with Vanessa Garcia who, like her, is an Alaska Milk endorser.

"I'm so proud of the fact that she's training me," Pia says of Vanessa. "She's the only certified power boxing instructor in the country and I'm not paying her. She made a whole routine just for me, teaching me the most advanced workout she learned in New York and I feel so privileged."

Pia also plays squash and basketball. She used to jog everyday, targeting about 10 rounds at the Renaissance's world-class track and field, before she started working out with Vanessa.

She claims that she eats anything except pork. She also loves seafood.

When it comes to milk, Pia drinks it with her cereal in the morning.

"I had never been able to drink milk from a glass until now unless I was in the States, because I thought milk in the States tastes better than milk here," she says. "Then I got to try Alaska and realized it tastes just as good as milk in the US. So now I have a bigger demand for milk which is really good for your body."

Mall show

AFTER doing mall shows in Robinson's Novaliches, Imus and Manila, Juan Rodrigo will be on his last leg of mall shows, with a performance at 4 p.m. today at the Fountain Area of Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center.

Sharing the stage are Cindy Rosas and Kelly Grace Salcedo, who have been promoting with Juan the "Awit Abroad" album for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

The songs in the album were composed by Rolly Amaranto, who is now based in Jeddah.

Cindy contributes the cut "Doon," which is an upbeat ditty.

Kelly Grace does a duet with Nonoy Zuñiga in "Dakila Ka."

On the comeback trail

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

STARS come and go with the speed of comets these days, so it's both a surprise and a pleasure to see some vanished or vanishing celebrities on the big and small screens again.

Topping our list of current comeback kids is **Snooky Serna**, who returns to film acting with "Marital Rape," a new movie company's initial presentation. The film may not be a biggie, but that's ok because Snooky is talented enough to shine in any showcase, no matter how modest. Let's just hope that the movie gives her enough opportunities to strut her thespic stuff.

Also on the comeback trail is **Mark Anthony Fernandez**, who appears to have gotten his career back on track again after his long stint in drug rehab. His comeback vehicle is "Dos Ekis," which opens this month, and he has another starrer due out in January.

Mark Anthony isn't as consistently competent as Snooky, but he's turned in some good performances in the past, and that's enough reason for us to hope that he's back in the movies to stay.

That goes double for **Francis Magalona**, who dropped out of the show biz scene some months ago, after being accused of reportedly evincing a fondness for grass (not the lawn variety).

Well, last Sunday, Francis finally resurfaced as a guest on **Sharon Cuneta**'s TV show, and he looked none the worse for wear. We trust that he's gotten over the latest crisis in his life, and that he won't be playing hide-and-seek with show biz faus from here on in.

An even bigger comeback appearance was made last Saturday on the Channel 7 sitcom; "Idol Ko Si Kap," by none other than controversial comedian and ex-TV host **Willie Revillame.**

Willie has made himself scarce on the tube after being fired from Channel 2's weekday noontime show, so his "resurfacing" on the Channel 7 sitcom was a pleasant surprise.

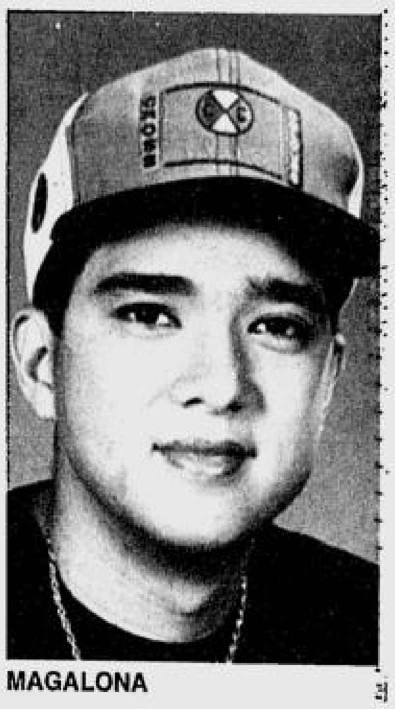
Willie played **Bong Revilla**'s comic sidekick in the episode, and he worked hard at coming up with a lively performance. He also appeared to make a point of keeping his "naughty" tongue in check, indicating that an important lesson had been learned.

Unfortunately, while the attitude was right, Willie's performance itself was pretty standard for him, so there were few surprises in that department. Still, we hope that we will be seeing the "new" and more disciplined Willie on the TV screen again from here on in.

Could it be that Channel 7 has bigger plans for Willie, and that his guest stint on Bong Revilla's sitcom last Saturday was just the channel's way of testing its viewers' reaction to a more regular comeback for Willie as host and comedian? We'll soon find out, one way or the other.

Other comebacks we'd like to see on the small or big screens:

- **Janno Gibbs** and his dad **Ronaldo Valdez** acting together in a comedy film. Janno and Ronaldo are creative, kinetic performances in their own right, and should even be more wonderful together. They're one of the best father-son tandems we have. Why should **Dolphy**, **Eric** and **Jeffrey Quizon** have all the fun?
- Now that **Leandro** and **Carlo Muñoz** are doing so well as TV-film actors, we hope that their aunt, the legendary **Tita Muñoz**, will act again on the screen, preferably with her nephews. Stage and film buffs know that Tita was one of our best thespic divas in the '50s, '60s and '70s. It would be great to see her sinking her teeth into a good role again!
- Finally, can a savvy producer convince ace comedy directors **Luciano B. Carlos** and **Romy Villaflor** to each make a comeback film. Chaning and Romy did some outstanding and really, funny movies in the '60s and '70s, and they still have the ability to make us laugh again. Please?



MAGALONA

'A song for every romantic fool

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I ASKED **Ricky Belmonte**'s cousin **Tirso Cruz III**, who is my *kumpare*, how the family is coping with Ricky's condition. "We still have to wait for **Sheryl** to come home and hopefully **Rosemarie**, too," Pipo said. "We really need prayers. Personally, I am not in favor of unplugging the life support machine. Miracles can still happen. I still believe that only God has the right to take away our life. It's not in our hands."

Amen to that, Pipo. We must solely rely on God's mercy.

(Editor's note: Mr. Belmonte passed away yesterday morning at 4 a.m. His remains now lie in state at the Loyola Funeral Parlor in Guadalupe, Makati.)

Fine night with The Corrs

I FELT like a giddy teenager watching The Corrs concert at the Big Dome last Saturday. Their hits might as well be a synopsis of my hit-or-miss love life.

Araneta Coliseum was packed. It seemed like I was in a huge karaoke joint because almost everyone was singing along with The Corrs as they sang hit after hit. The most applauded number was "Runaway" and "All the Love in the World." Lead vocalist **Andrea** was obviously moved when the crowd waved lighted cell phones as she sang that love song theme from "America's Sweethearts."

Gone are the days when fans would light matches and raise their lighters during concerts. The texting generation has invaded the scene.

What really struck me about the Corrs concert was the no-frills production. Unlike most so-called divas who perform before ornate backdrops, with flashy costumes and elaborate dance steps, the Corrs act was so simple yet so endearing. When you've got real talent you don't need to resort to any deceptive packaging.

The Corrs sisters even play the violin, flute and drums.

Now who among the divas can claim that they can even play the piano? The most they can do is play with words in their opening spiels.

After watching The Corrs perform live, I must say that buying pirated CDs is not only an offense but is also an insult to good artists. Raw, original talents like The Corrs deserve nothing less than an original recording of their music.

The Corrs have a song for every romantic fool.

Bits and pieces

MELANIE Marquez has been quoted as saying she's lucky this time around because the father of her newborn blue-eyed baby is a responsible man. Was she alluding to her ex-hubby **Derek Dee**? Their separation was quite a messy one. There was even talk of child molestation. I hope Melanie's overworked heart can finally rest.

- Catch sex star on the rise **Allona Amor** in Regal Entertainment's "Huli Sa Akto," which costars **Jestoni Alarcon** and **Roy Alvarez. Jun Posadas** directs.
- Speaking of stars' business, **Monsour del Rosario** put up his own gym, OTTC (Olympians Taekwondo Training Center) at 2316 Karivin Plaza on Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati (728-5133 and 812-6328). Mon does not want to waste his martial arts expertise.

If he wanted to, he could easily outshine other action stars when it comes to stunts. Although he's busy teaching taekwondo in OTTC, Mon misses doing movies. "It would be nice to do an action film meant for kids," he said. "No sexy leading ladies and useless violent scenes. Just pure entertainment for the young."

I ribbed him: "You work hard but play even harder to get!"

Mon should give marriage a try.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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FAST & FURIOUS - R 18 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:50	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10
HEARTBREAKERS - P 13 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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Working hard as a band is a matter of Corrs

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

BRITISH singer-songwriter Julia Fordham, Spanish pop singer Princesa, sax jazz player David Koz and now Irish pop group The Corrs have all come to the Philippines to perform. They have also commented about the state of the country's traffic, whose state according to them ranges from unbelievable to downright horrible.

Traffic was probably the reason why the Sept. 29 The Corrs press conference at the Discovery suite was delayed for about two hours.

Nevertheless, ecstatic applause and screams greeted the Irish siblings Andrea, Sharon, Jim and Caroline Corr when they finally came at around 1 p.m. for the 30-minute conference with the members of the Philippine media. The Corrs later had a two-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

Lead singer and tin-whistle player Andrea remarked that Filipinos are so much like the Irish in that they show it when they feel excited.

"We do scream and yell when something good happens," Andrea said. "Filipinos are very, very open. Not a culture to curtail their excitement. We've received such a warm welcome."

The Corrs came six months after they were originally slated to perform in Manila because Andrea suffered a severe ear infection and doctors advised her not to travel. Now, she said the long wait only heightened their excitement to perform in the Philippines.

NO SIBLING rivarly. The Corrs,

ROGER MARGALLO

"We want to show the fans that we appreciate their support," she said. "We wanted to make our concert worth their wait."

Avoiding rivalry

Currently on a world tour, the group is also set to release in the Philippines on Oct. 15 the album "The Best of the Corrs," with the new single "Would You Be Happier?"

It's been six years since their debut record "Forgiven, Not Forgotten," which was followed by three more equally successful albums.

The siblings were born and raised in Dunbalk, Ireland, and were encouraged to play musical instruments at an early age.

Asked how it is like sharing work with her sisters and brother, Andrea talked about love and friendship and avoiding sibling rivalry. Siblings, she said, should not take each other for granted. "If you're angry because (a sibling) did something when you were six . . . it shouldn't follow you on to when you're 15 or 20."

They believe that even when siblings are connected through their parents, love and friendship are not guaranteed and have to be worked on.

Violinist Sharon says this principle also holds true for other bands. "We must always be open to learn new things, to explore," she said.

Greatest reward

"Forgiven, Not Forgotten" became multi-platinum in several countries in Europe, went gold in most of the rest of the world, and the group became known as the world's hardest-working band.

Appreciation from fans is a band's greatest reward, Andrea said, " when you write something that you believe in and people are moved by it."

Appreciation was apparent in their second album, "Talk On Corners," which produced four hit singles: "Only When I Sleep," "What Can I Do," "I Never Loved You Anyway" and "So Young." The album became the biggest selling British album in 1998.

In November 1999, The Corrs released their third offering, "MTV Unplugged." The album produced hits like "Radio" and their version of REM's "Everybody Hurts," which they first sung as a tribute to the victims of a 1998 bombing in Ireland.

What artists can do

Like most of us, the group was deeply saddened by the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington DC and would also love to contribute in any way.

Lead guitarist Jim considered the attacks "such a sensitive issue" that he didn't think "we're even qualified to comment about it.

"Remember that these people who keep committing these acts actually believe that they will go to heaven after they die," he said.

What artists like them can do, drummer Caroline said, is to "get involved musically. Music is very therapeutic. In moments of great tragedy, people find solace in listening to music."

Their latest album, "In Blue," is dedicated to their mother Jean who died while they were recording. "In Blue" includes "Breathless," "Irresistible," and "All the Love in the World," all of which are slowly getting more airplays locally.

Collaboration

"We're open to everything," said Sharon when asked whether the band ever considered collaborating with other artists.

Sharon said they spent so much time writing and recording their latest offering and they're "happy doing it this way."

"If the opportunity arises, we welcome it (collaboration), but we can't actually see someone we'd love to collaborate with at this moment," Sharon said.

For "In Blue," The Corrs received a multi-platinum record award from Warner Music Philippines managing director Ricky Ilacad during the press conference.

The group also received tokens of appreciation from Odyssey Records president Jimmy Fonacier and Nokia ad and promo executive Lyn Montealegre and 89.9 dwTM.

"The Corrs In Blue" concert was sponsored by Nokia, in cooperation with Jag Jeans, Mega Magazine, Continental German Tires Technology, Strepsils, E! Philippines, MTV Philippines and Warner Music Philippines.

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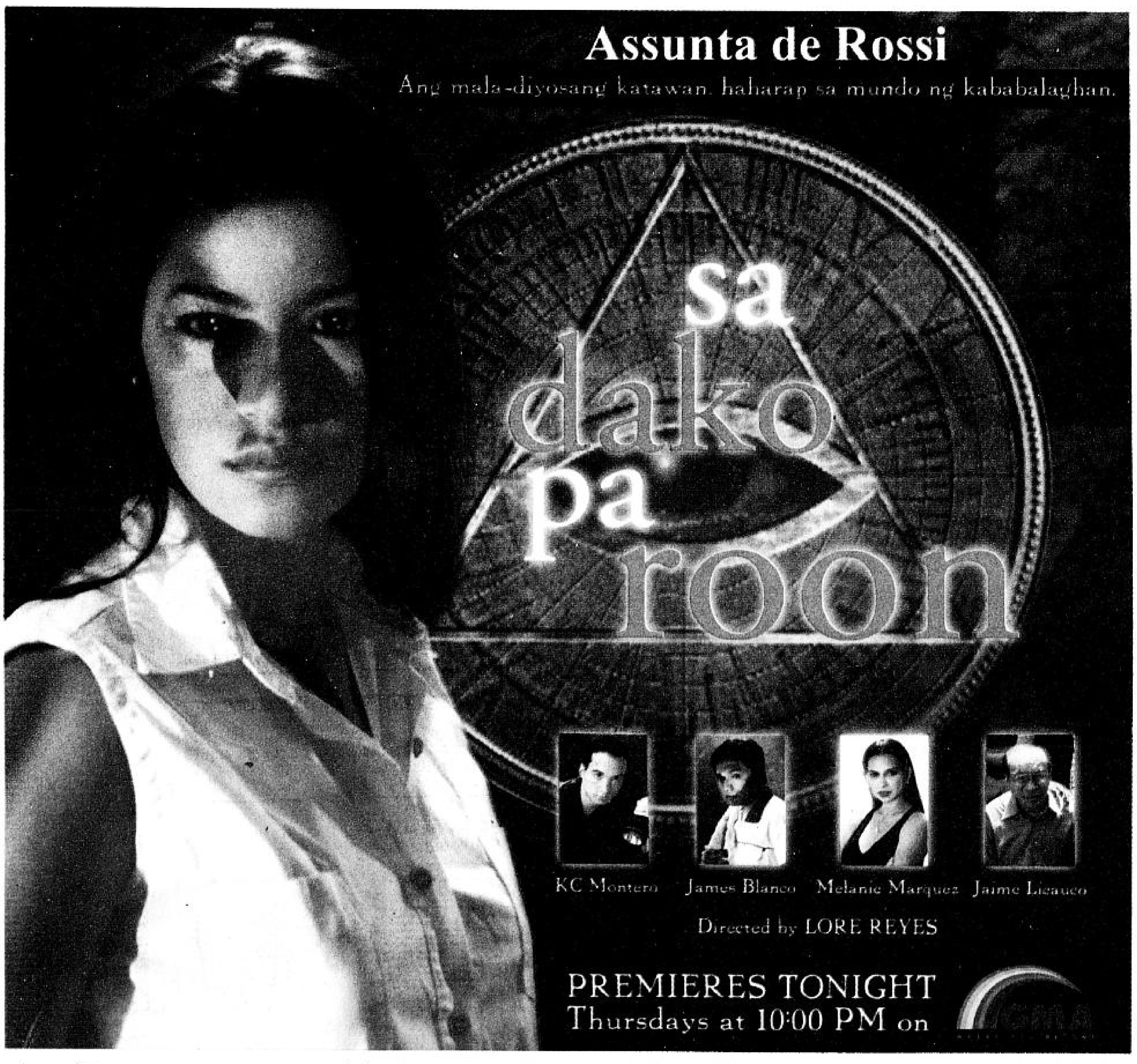
Janna ELFMAN
Natassja KINSKI
Goldie HAWN

Porter Stoddard (Warren Beatty) is a well-known New York architect who is at a crossroads; a nexus where twists and turns lead to a myriad of missteps - some with his wife Ellie (Diane Keaton), others with long time friends Mona (Goldie Hawn) and her husband Griffin (Gary Shandling). Deciding which direction to take often leads to unexpected encounters with hilarious consequences in this comedy about life, love, friendship and the sometimes blistering nature of marital bliss.



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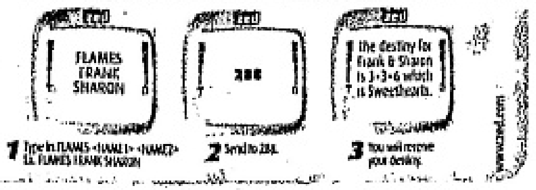

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B1

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Labor row shuts down Nissan plant

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE automotive industry is in turmoil anew as another Japanese assembler, Nissan Motors Philippines Inc., was forced to shut down operations due to a labor dispute while other assemblers such as Columbian Motors Corp. started implementing substantial cuts in workforce in the face of high inventory levels.

A source said Nissan's labor dispute, which has been brewing since July this year, came to a boil Monday when its union went on strike, forcing management to shut down its Sta. Rosa, Laguna, plant. An estimated 280 employees out of Nissan's 500-plus workforce joined the strike.

Nissan is the second local assembler in seven months to be forcibly closed due to a disagreement between management and labor. Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. incurred P150 million in losses after a labor strike shut down its Sta. Rosa plant for more than a week.

The source said management found union's demand for higher wages in the collective bargaining agreement unacceptable in view of the industry's failure to sustain its recovery last year. Nissan's assembly operations have already been disrupted in the past few weeks as union members resorted to a work slowdown to force management to give in to their demands.

This is a major blow to Yulon Motor Co. Ltd., Taiwan's biggest auto assembler and parts maker, which took control of the company two years ago and promised to spend P8 billion to reinvigorate Nissan's sagging brand. Last year, Yulon sold 4,030 units, or way below the plant's installed capacity of 32,000 units a year.

Nissan currently assembles the Nissan Sentra and Cefiro sedans and Nissan Ad Resort pickup in Laguna. Nissan's commercial vehicle models, such as the Patrol sport utility vehicle and Frontier pickups are handled by another entity, Universal Motors Corp. Nissan expects no disruption in sales because it has plenty of units in stock.

The local industry is currently plagued with high inventory levels with demand unlikely to pick up this year specially after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that further reduced consumer appetite for automobiles.

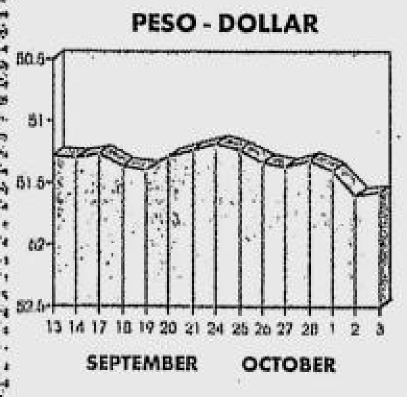
The worsening glut in automobiles worldwide had already forced major players to cut back production in other countries. In the Philippines, an industry source said assemblers were scaling back their production schedules in view of the gloomy outlook for demand.

Columbian Motors, which assembles the Kia Pride, is currently implementing a retrenchment program which would cut its workforce by 20 percent this year. CMC chair Jose Ch. Alvarez said the firm had to undertake this move to weather the weak demand in the market.

Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that industry sales fell 11.7 percent to 50,324 units from January to August this year from 57,014 during the same period last year.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱51.575 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 03, 2001

¥120.86 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 03, 2001

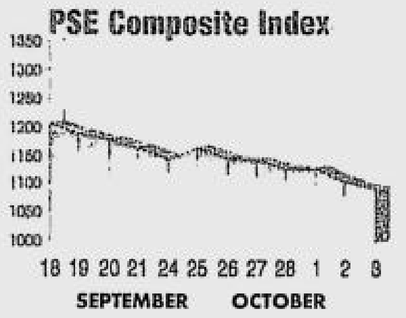
GOLD:$290.10/290.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 03, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares continue to slide

STOCKS closed 1.4 percent lower yesterday with investors retreating to the sidelines due to uncertainty over expected US strikes against Afghanistan, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 15.73 points to close at 1,089.28, a level analysts said was last seen at the height of the Asian financial crisis in 1998.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Turnover reached 178.27 million shares worth P278.75 million from Tuesday's 236 million shares worth P130 million. *AFP*

Lopez power firm starts using Malampaya gas

By RONNEL W. DOMINGO

LOPEZ-CONTROLLED First Gas Power Corp. yesterday announced the successful firing of its Sta. Rita power plant in Batangas using the Malampaya natural gas.

First Gas president Peter Garrucho Jr. said in a news statement, the firing of one of Sta. Rita's four units marked the start of the plant's commissioning.

"All four units, with a total generating capacity of 1,000 megawatts, are expected to be using Malampaya gas by the end of the year," Garrucho said.

Commercial operations of the Sta. Rita power plant using natural gas will start on New Year's Day, he said.

However, he said that First Gas expected the plant to start delivering electricity to the Luzon grid yesterday.

Sta. Rita is the first combined cycle power plant to use indigenous natural gas from Malampaya.

Two other plants intending to use the gas, the 1,200-mw Ilijan plant and the 500-mw San Lorenzo plant, are also in Batangas.

"This is a major step toward self-reliance in energy production," Garrucho noted.

The Malampaya gas is expected to slash by a quarter the country's dependence on imported oil.

Last week, Shell Philippines Exploration BV announced that it had delivered ahead of schedule natural gas from the Malampaya field to the Sta. Rita plant.

The gas was originally scheduled to reach Batangas on Oct. 16.

Spex managing director David Greer said the gas was delivered from the gas terminal in Batangas City through a 9.5-kilometer onshore pipeline to the Sta. Rita plant.

Greer said the terminal is capable of processing 500 million cubic feet of gas a day.

The terminal is connected to the Malampaya platform, located northwest of Palawan, with a 504-km subsea pipeline.

The Malampaya gas field is expected to yield 3.2 trillion cubic feet of the clean fuel.

The gas is also seen to provide the government with an estimated revenue of between $8 billion and $10 billion over the next 20 years.

As operator of the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project, Spex is responsible for building the upstream components needed to extract natural gas from a depth of three kilometers below the sea bed.

Spex owns 45 percent of the project, while Texaco Philippines owns another 45 percent. The remaining 10 percent belongs to state firm PNOCO-EC.

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Cheering squids

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

REPORTS say the Taiwanese government has ruled that the Philippines is dumping cement into Taiwan. Yeah, sure, and I am Superman, and when I am resting I become Batman.

Our cement makers, says the association of local cement companies called Philcemcor, are lucky to export to Taiwan 4 percent of its market.

Look at that, Floro, just take a look at that! Four freaking percent! In comparison, Taiwan ships to the Philippines whole mountains of cement.

Last July, Taiwanese cement cornered 13 percent of the Philippine market. That was our lucky break. Taiwanese cement used to account for 20 percent of our market.

To think, never did our beloved government rule that such an onslaught of imported cement from Taiwan as dumping. Why? Self-flagellation, I suppose.

* * *

THUS, Taiwan's finance ministry is set to impose a 65-percent tariff on Philippine cement. It's a punishment, no ifs or buts about it. Taiwan wants to teach us a lesson.

Moreover, the punishment will last for five long years. In five years, I can already become a grandfather or, if any woman volunteers, I can also become a father.

Anyway, I am not trying to bash the Taiwanese government. If anything, it's admiration I have for its quick decision. In favor of its own companies! What else?

You see, the Taiwan International Trade Commission ruled on the dumping complaint against Philippine cement only in two quick months.

Here, the suffering cement companies were begging the government to do something about too much cement imports for the past 1 1/2 years.

* * *

AS usual, nothing happened. They were asking for only a 50-percent tariff and for only 200 days. Did they get any? Does Gloriaetta love the man named Band . . . Wrist Band?

And yet, the cement companies are dying. In 1998, imported cement accounted for less than 2 percent of our market. Today, it is close to 35 percent, and it is still increasing.

Thus, the cement industry is giving itself about a year to live. Already, some 4,000 poor guys have lost their jobs in the industry. I don't know if they have turned to lives of crime.

Tens of thousands more are fearing for their jobs, if not for their very lives and those of their families. What do we do? There's only one thing to do: We help Taiwan.

It's clear that Taiwan, Indonesia and South Korea are dumping cement into the Philippines, and to make matters worse, they are getting help from Congress and the courts.

* * *

SOMETHING is terribly wrong here. Our kid is already getting beaten up by thugs, and still our judges and our congressmen are cheering. What are they? Cheering squids?

Anyway, Judge Floro Alejo of Valenzuela got away with an injunction order against a decision by the Department of Trade and Industry on the cement case.

And the judge issued the injunction right before the DTI was to rule on the petition of the cement industry. And what did the DTI do? Nothing, of course.

As an industry, like the steel industry before it, cement may be a goner. The steel industry died two years ago, also thanks to dumping!

And it died in the hands of the same people who, today, are the biggest importers of cement. They used the same tactic. They did things in that same court in Valenzuela.

* * *

A LITTLE knowledge can be dangerous. At least it's the valuable lesson we learn from Jesus Alcordo, president of our beloved Napocor, which is still losing a lot of money.

You see, Alcordo did not want to use the GSIS' services to insure Napocor's billions of dollars in assets. Alcordo wanted to hire his own brokers to arrange the insurance.

His scheme backfired. Today, with Napocor's insurance already expired for four days, he still does not have insurance, not even for a centavo worth of a single screw.

To break the ugly brawl between Alcordo and his fellow Cebuano, GSIS president Winston Garcia, this cute administration created a committee.

The committee would hold a bidding for Napocor's insurance. Surprise—the bidding failed! So who said that he was an insurance expert? Better than the GSIS?

Just because Alcordo has an insurance consultant, whose name sounds like George Francisco, it does not mean they are already insurance gods. Or goddesses!

* * *

NOW I don't know how to tell you this, but do I see a negotiated deal in the making here? "Negotiated deal" is just another way of saying . . . well, "Yippee!"

The favored brokers of Napocor are said to be AON, which is backed by the Ayala group, and a certain Andrew Higgins Pickering.

The GSIS did not want to pre-qualify the two. In 1998, as I said, Napocor itself blacklisted AON for not delivering after it won the bidding. And Higgins was not even among the Top 10 brokers in the world.

For no reason at all, at the same time, Alcordo dropped from the list of qualified bidders the world's top broker, Marsh McLennan, and the sixth, Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

To think, Alcordo was boasting that the bidding would be a showcase of all biddings, the mother of all biddings, an example for other government agencies.

For it was the first time that a government agency could actually interfere in, even dictate upon, the work of another agency. I'm afraid this is the example he was talking about.

FBDC willing to improve offer to PSE

By Doris C. Dumlao

RESIGNATIONS hit the controversial building committee of the Philippine Stock Exchange over disagreements in the ongoing negotiations with property developer Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

This developed as FBDC yesterday said it would heed the calls from committee chair Ismael Cruz to improve its offer for the construction of the future PSE headquarters in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

PSE sources yesterday said four of the six voting members of the PSE building committee—which is tasked to negotiate with FBDC on the construction of the unified trading floor in Fort Bonifacio—have decided to quit as committee members.

The sources said the four did not approve of committee chair Cruz's stance that FBDC's latest offer was "reasonable enough except for some remaining bones of contention."

"They don't want to have anything to do with the deal anymore and leave it up to them (Cruz) to negotiate and then bring it up to the membership for approval. It's a disagreement on the negotiating stance," a source said.

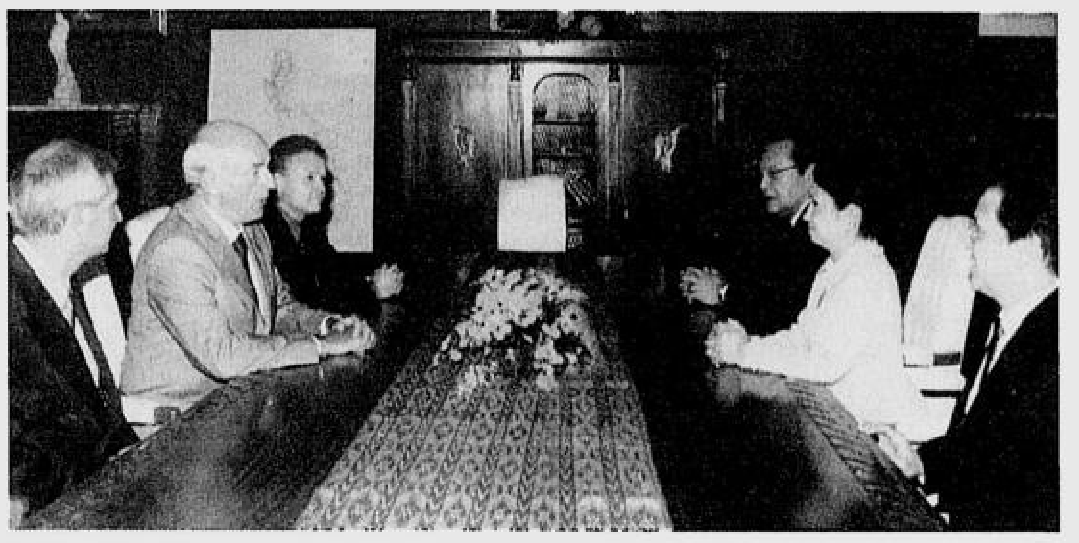
The source explained that the members were not satisfied with how the negotiations were shaping up to the disadvantage of PSE.

The four members who quit the committee were PSE directors Eddie Gobing, Robert Coyiuto, Francis Chua and member-broker Charles Shih of Mandarin Securities. This leaves Cruz and another PSE director, Vivian Yuchengco, as the remaining committee members.

The resignation followed the ouster of PSE president Ramon Garcia who was sacked by the PSE board of directors last week for his tough stance on the FBDC issue. Garcia also sat on the building committee as a management representative.

Meanwhile, FBDC president and CEO Ricardo Pascua said in a television interview yesterday that the company was willing to modify its offer to take into account the PSE's proposals.

"As long as the basis of negotiations will be our new offer, we are prepared to listen to the PSE's wish list."



HORMEL, SMC EXECS CALL ON GMA

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes Joel Johnson (second from left), chair and CEO of Hormel Foods Corp. of the US, and Richard Bross (left), president of Hormel Foods International. They were accompanied in the Malacañang courtesy call by San Miguel chair Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. (third from right) and vice chair Ramon S. Ang. The Hormel executives were in the country to strengthen ties with their joint venture partner Pure Foods Corp., which was recently acquired by San Miguel, and explore further business opportunities in the local food industry.

Highlands Prime plans IPO

By Elena R. Torrijos

LEISURE and gaming firm Belle Corp. has applied with the Securities and Exchange Commission to sell up to 15 percent of its stake in wholly owned Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc. through an initial public offering, documents filed with the government agency showed.

In a prospectus, Belle said that it would offer to the public 322.85 million common shares of Highlands Prime at P2.33 per share to raise an estimated P730 million in net proceeds.

Belle aims to use P530.55 million of the proceeds to pay principal and interest on outstanding debt, P157.77 million for capital expenditures and working capital and P41.37 million for stock transaction taxes.

Asian Alliance Investment Corp. will be the underwriter and issue manager for the IPO.

Belle earlier signed a memorandum of agreement last July 31 to sell at least 51 percent in Highlands Prime to SM Investments Corp. at P2.33 per share. The agreement shall be subject to the SEC's approval of Highlands Prime's IPO.

Highlands Prime projected it would post a net income of P14 million this year on the back of P40 million in net revenue but profit should improve to P143 million next year from P370 million in net revenue as a result of the sale of finished residential units and house and lots.

The property developer's assets are comprised largely of undeveloped land, subdivision lots and finished residential units located around the vicinity of Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club Inc. in Tagaytay City and Tagaytay Midlands International Golf Club Inc. in Batangas.

The company projects it can provide for up to P500 million a year for landbanking activities and is open to joint-venture arrangements with interested parties to capitalize on its expertise in planning, marketing leisure property projects.

In the near term, it said it would focus its resources on developing new residential projects within the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands complex.

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Session 4
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By: Mr. Ambrosio Reyes
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Session 5
QUANTIFYING CONSUMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS CREATIVITY OF AN ADVERTISEMENT
By: Ms. Darrah Estrada
Managing Director, Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines

Session 6
UNDERSTANDING CONSUMERS' IN-STORE SHOPPING BEHAVIOR AND THEIR ROLE IN SALES PROMOTIONS
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, October 3, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50	49.5	50	616,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	27,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	194	194	192	194	29,130
Philippine National Bank	49.5	50	49.5	49.5	536,600
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	15	15	15	15	300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	243	243	243	243	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1320	1310	1320	2,120
Sun Life Financial Serv.	995	1000	990	1000	2,560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.25	23	23.25	5,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.28	0.28	2,030,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	620	620	27,240
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.023	5,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	130,000
Piltel	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	437.5	440	427.5	427.5	191,950
Ivantage Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	130,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	13,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	23	22.75	22.75	21,200
Manila Electric Co. B	34.5	35	33	33	249,900
Petron Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.18	1.18	2,922,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	790,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	153,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.38	0.42	0.38	0.42	80,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	150,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	55,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	50,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	150,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	73,300
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.5	25	24	25	9,300
RFM Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.08	2.08	606,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39	38.5	39	70,700
San Miguel Corp. B	51	52	51	52	204,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	23,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.3	2,393,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.6	0.6	110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	1,720,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	4,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.99	10,670,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	200,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	1,100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	9,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.25	24.25	23.5	23.5	59,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	80,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Ionics Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3	37,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,850,000
Music Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	100,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4	4	4	4	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	12,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	6,000,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	600,000
Manila Jockey Club	14	14	12	12	18,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	76,300
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	615	615	600	600	6,820
Jollibee Warrants	11	11	11	11	10,000
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	500,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.001	0.001	33,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	6,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	23,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	13,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	20,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	14,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.2	1,094,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	1,860,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.245	0.245	4,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.21	6,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.16	2,636,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	5,377,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	40,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	36,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	6,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	15,880,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	10,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,222,910	69,162,685.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	111,427,110	167,025,855.00
PRO	22,462,000	40,388,390.00
Mining	29,126,000	1,867,800.00
OIL	11,710,000	55,950.00
GRAND TOTALS :	175,948,020	278,520,680.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	449.53	UP 2.39
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,537.44	DOWN 26.72
PRO	427.01	DOWN 11.97
Mining	1,075.38	DOWN 29.67
OIL	1.32	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	667.28	UP 2.39
Composite	1,069.28	DOWN 15.73

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 104; NO. OF TRADES: 1,760

DISCLOSURES

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. has declared a 10-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders as of June 29, 2001.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. has declared a 10-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders as of Aug. 24, 2001.

* * *

PICOP Resources Inc. has disclosed that the shutdown of its operations shall start on Oct. 31 and will last anywhere from three to six months or even longer depending on circumstances.

* * *

GUOCO Holdings Inc. has terminated its management contract with **Guoco Assets (Philippines) Inc.**

* * *

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 17. Also, the board has approved an increase in the number of its directors from seven to nine.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **LMG Chemical Corp.** were Antonio Garcia, Ramon Garcia, Eusebio Garcia Jr., Ana Maria Ordoveza, Jose Ma. Ordoveza, Albert del Rosario, Jose Fernandez Jr., Carmelita Salgado, John Alcordo, Paulus Setiawan, Suwito Tjokro, Jaime Gonzales and Andi Solaiman.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Chemical Industries of the Philippines Inc.** were Antonio Garcia, Jose Ma. Ordoveza, Ramon Garcia, Andi Solaiman, John Alcordo, Suwito Tjokro and Jaime Gonzales.

* * *

ALCORN Gold Resources Corp. has disclosed that Robert Cokeng is an independent director of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 3, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.088495	1.000000	51.5800
Japan	Yen	0.009011	0.008278	0.4270
United Kingdom	Pound	1.599543	1.469500	75.7968
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139575	0.128228	6.6140
Switzerland	Franc	0.672118	0.617475	31.8494
Canada	Dollar	0.694370	0.637918	32.9038
Singapore	Dollar	0.612202	0.562430	29.0101
Australia	Dollar	0.538699	0.494903	25.5271
Bahrain	Dinar	2.887407	2.652661	136.8243
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.290258	0.266660	13.7543
Brunei	Dollar	0.613651	0.563761	29.0788
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000100	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024383	0.022401	1.1554
UAE	Dirham	0.296431	0.272331	14.0468
Korea	Won	0.000838	0.000770	0.0397
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.918700	47.3865
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.469724	24.2284
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140055	7.2240
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.416888	21.5031
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066765	3.4437
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022774	1.1747
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000474	0.0244
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154514	7.9698
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004582	0.2363
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005521	0.2848
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022774	1.1747
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.166508	60.1685

Inflation rate seen at 6.1% in Sept.

By Clarissa S. Batino

INFLATION rate in September is expected to drop to 6.1 percent, the lowest so far this year, from 6.3 percent in the previous month given the stable food and oil prices, and the less volatile foreign exchange rate during the period.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would consider the expected inflation rate and the latest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve in deciding whether to reduce its key policy rates in today's regular meeting of the Monetary Board.

"That's (US Fed rate cut) good news. Good news for the US economy, good news for the global economy. It will be one of the points that will be factored in the meeting," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

"But we will also look at oil prices, the exchange rate, and the effect on inflation."

The Fed slashed the key short-term interest rate by a half-percentage point on Tuesday to the lowest level in nearly 40 years and said it was poised to act again as it tried to avert a recession in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

A government source, however, said that the BSP's research department has recommended a cut in its policy rates by 25 basis points. The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates currently stand at 9 and 11.25 percent, respectively.

The financial markets have been seeking cuts in the BSP rates. They have even criticized the Monetary Board for sacrificing economic growth in favor of lower inflation.

Traders said that with the declining inflation figure, the rate could average to as low as 5 percent by yearend. Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said it could even go down to as low as 4.7 percent.

Food prices, which comprise more than half of the consumer price basket, are seen to remain stable because of encouraging agricultural output. Even fuel prices have started to decline recently.

Reuters

Gov't prepares 'mother bill' on investment incentives

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CABINET-LEVEL Task Force on Incentives is drafting a "mother bill" on incentives which is aimed at merging and simplifying all the fiscal perks granted by government agencies.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the proposed bill, which would replace the Omnibus Investments Act and other laws that give incentives-granting power to other state agencies, would benchmark, rationalize, harmonize and simplify all incentives packages of the government.

"Incentives will be performance-based and competitive. They will be guided by the principles of uniformity in application, a level playing field and simplicity in administration," Roxas said.

Roxas said that prospective investors were confused about the various agencies that they have to approach to get incentives. This is why the Task Force has rejected a proposal to establish a separate incentive package for information and communication technology.

President Macapagal-Arroyo formed a task force led by the National Economic and Development Authority to form a single incentives package that would be applicable to all businesses in any industry anywhere in the country. It is composed of the Board of Investments, Department of Finance, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, and the Department of Budget and Management.

Aside from creating a single incentive package, the task force is also working on the improvement of the country's fiscal perks that will include the lengthening of the income tax breaks to 12 years or more.

The task force is also pushing for the following incentives: duty-free importation of capital equipment; net operating loss carry-over; tax credits on purchased components of locally produced equipment; deferred imposition of 2 percent minimum corporate income tax; investment tax allowance, and double deduction for training and research and development.

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Chemphil group planning to restructure operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines Inc. or Chemphil group has mapped out a group-wide restructuring strategy that will rationalize its businesses in view of the difficult economic environment.

The restructuring plan calls for, among others, the sale of certain assets and the spin-off of non-core businesses.

In separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, CIP and its subsidiary LMG Chemicals Corp., the country's biggest chemical manufacturer, also announced plans to renew various management services and overhead sharing agreements with other members of the Chemphil group.

CIP, founded by entrepreneur Eusebio Garcia, said it would spin off its Esgar farm into a new company once it gets the necessary permits to convert the farm's classification from agricultural to other uses from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

It has put up for sale a 71,290-square-meter property in Canlubang, Laguna, subject to the terms to be laid out by its management.

Also announced was the assignment by the Chemphil group's subscription rights to some 3.55 million common stocks of Kemwater Phil. Corp. (KPC) to LMG for P3.5 million.

LMG, for its part, has agreed to subscribe to 7.7 million KPC shares. LMG has also agreed to take up the subscription rights to KPC, amounting to 15.7 million shares, assigned by its subsidiary, Chemphil Marketing, which, in turn, is in the business of selling liquid caustic soda in the country.

KPC is a producer of solid and liquid aluminum sulfate, an inorganic coagulant used for the treatment of both drinking and wastewater. It is a joint venture project of the Chemphil group and Kemira Chemicals Oy (Kemira) of Finland.

CIP is the holding company of major corporations primarily engaged in the manufacture and sale of industrial chemicals. Its subsidiaries and affiliates are also in general insurance, chemical bulk storage and personal care products. CIP itself as an investing company is into real estate investments and agribusiness.

CIP has a majority share in Chemphil Albright & Wilson Corp. (CAWC) and in LMG Chemicals. It owns 50 percent of Perfumeria Española Corp. known in the Philippines for the Heno de Pravia brand of personal care products. CIP also owns a significant equity in Petrochemical Corporation of Asia-Pacific (Petrocorp).

In another development, LMG has announced plans to sell its alkylation and polymerization plants in the People's Republic of China.

LMG will also sell parcels of land in San Pascual, Batangas, covering 1,742 square meters.

The company suffered a major setback when it was ordered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to shut down its sulfuric flaking plant in Pasig due to environmental concerns.

Call center sector to create 150,000 jobs

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CALL center sector, considered as a sunshine industry in the country, is expected to generate 150,000 new jobs in the next four or five years as it aims to put itself on "the call center map of the world."

"It's a very promising industry. Everybody's growing and hiring," Contact Center Association of the Philippines chair Benedict Hernandez said in an interview yesterday.

As of now, there are around 50 call centers in the country, including in-house company call centers. For the whole industry, less than 10,000 seats are filled so there are still lots of jobs available.

Hernandez disclosed that several international firms were scheduled to set up shop in the country by yearend.

One of these is Infonics, a full service software company based in the United States that provides state-of-the-art information technology solutions. It already has an office in India, but it also plans to set up an office here at the RCBC Tower in Makati, Hernandez said.

He added that another US-based company, TeleTech, which specializes in customer relations management services, recently set up an office in the country. Its international clients include Nokia, Microsoft, Ford Motor Co., Hewlett Packard and AT&T.

"The Philippines is poised to become a really major force in the industry. Our main competitor, India, is ahead of us, but this is because they went into the call center business ahead of us," CQuadrant marketing director Ardie Balderrama said.

"Some of the companies with offices in India are now coming to the Philippines because they encountered a lot of problems in India," Hernandez said.

Last year, the country's call center industry posted an income of $10 million, only $2 million behind India.

The industry's main target markets include the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom.

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COMDDAP EXPO 2001

Basic Technology for the Future

Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines

October 4 - 6, 2001
10 AM to 8 PM
The Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City

Basic technology for the future

BASIC is back. This year, the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (COMDDAP) brings its annual exposition back where it first started – to the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. It is a fitting venue for its chosen theme: "Basic Technology for the Future".

With information technology progressing by leaps and bounds, we know that it is essential to keep up with the latest trends and developments. But no matter how you look at it, the basics still form the backbone of modern IT. Far from getting more complicated, advances in IT have succeeded in further simplifying technology, making it more user-friendly and more accessible for a greater number of people.

> *COMDDAP Expo 2001 highlights the basic technologies that are omnipresent in our lives*

COMDDAP Expo 2001 highlights the basic technologies that are omnipresent in our lives – from equipment and software that run the businesses of today, to simple tools and gadgets that have become indispensable in our day-to-day activities.

These are the technologies that drive us – at home, in school, in the workplace, and in the global community. They are the tools that make our lives simpler — the same technologies that will propel our world into the future.

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During the computer POST (Power On Self-Test), ASUS Post Reporter provides friendly voice warnings through internal or external speaker, clearly explaining system errors for quick and easy optimization. With the voice-ready version of the ASUS PC probe software installed, voice warnings of hardware errors can also be issued in your Windows operating system. The bundled Winbond Voice Editor software allows users to add customized system voice warnings and multi-language support.

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The P4B provides convenient connectivity to external home theater audio systems via an SPDIF-out (Sony-Philips Digital Interface) module. Experience 5.1-channel surround sound and enhanced 3D audio while playing your favorite DVDs or games. Both coaxial and optical interface are supported.

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The ASUS EZ Plug power connector lets you use your existing power supply and eliminates the need to buy a special ATX 12V power supply to support your P4 CPU.

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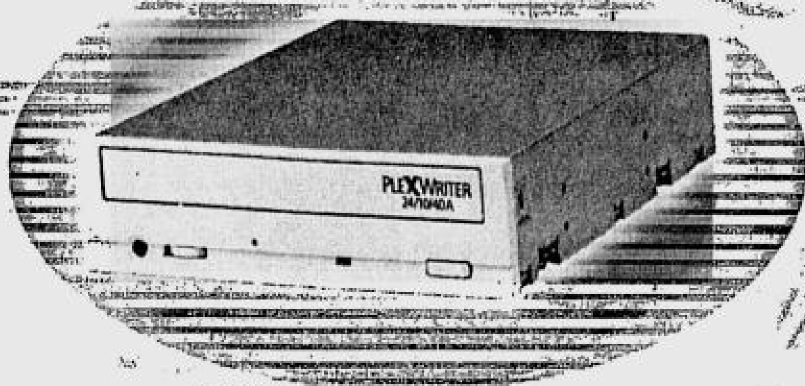

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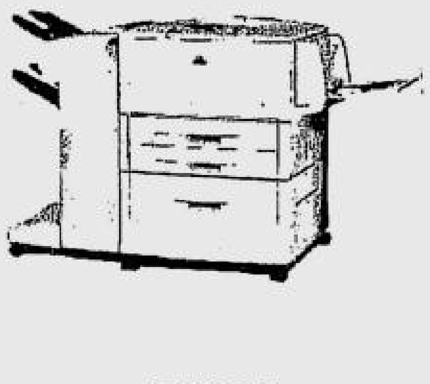

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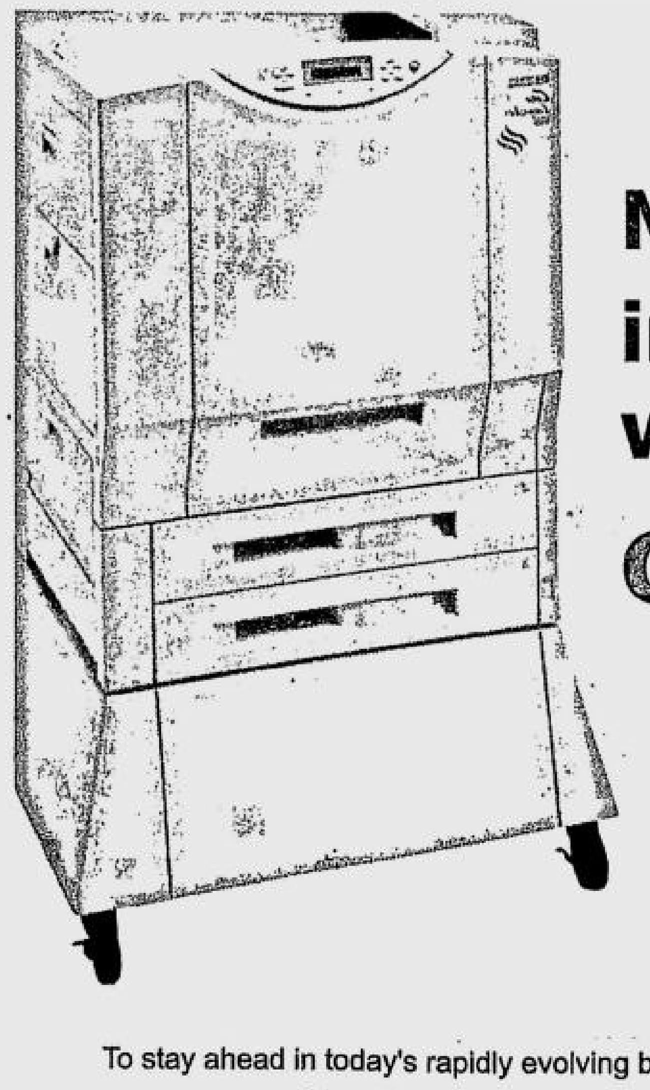

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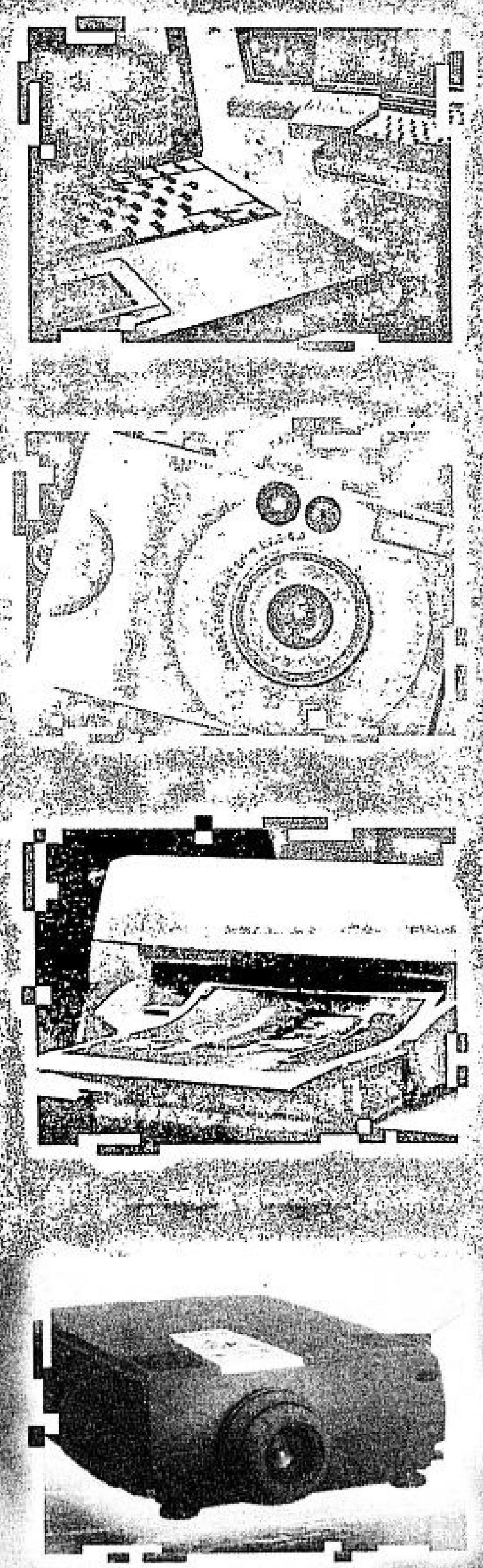

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THE NEXT step in the evolution of Intel Hub Architecture

The Intel 850 chipset was designed in tandem with the Intel Pentium 4 processor and innovative Intel NetBurst micro-architecture (295K PDF). Doubling the length of the pipeline between the processor and the chipset enables higher performance than even before. To further eliminate bottlenecks, the Pentium 4 processor features a 400-MHz system bus that provides three times the bandwidth over previous technologies.

The Intel Pentium 4 processor also provides advanced dynamic execution to more accurately predict branch utilization. An execution trace cache stores decoded instructions, which removes the decoder from the main instruction loop. The Intel Pentium 4 processor also provides 144 new streaming SIMD Extension 2 instructions, with double precision floating point, 128-bit SIMD integer, and improved cache and memory management instructions.

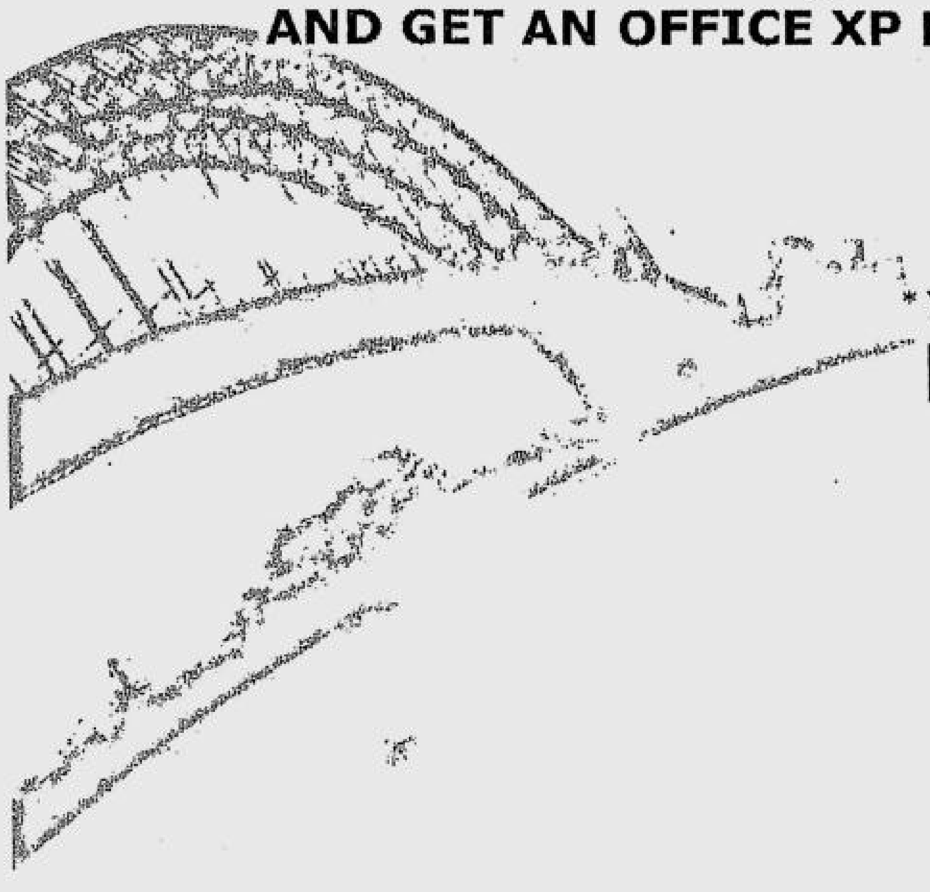
Revolutionary architecture

The 850 chipset is based in Intel Hub Architecture, which delivers twice the I/O bandwidth as previous generation northbridge/southbridge technology. With dedicated data paths to fully optimize the additional bandwidth, the Intel 850 chipset offers support for future Intel processors based on NetBurst micro-architecture, and delivers significant gains for desktop PCs and entry-level workstations.

- The 82850 Memory Controller Hub (MCH) delivers dual RDRAM memory channels and a 400 MHz system bus, providing the latest graphics support through 1.5V AGP4X technology. Together these features deliver the highest total bandwidth capabilities to the PC platform.
- The enhanced 82801BA I/O Controller Hub (ICH2) delivers twice the I/O bandwidth over traditional bridge architecture and provides dedicated data paths to fully optimize the additional bandwidth. The ICH2 makes a direct connection from the graphics and memory for faster access to peripherals and provides the features and bandwidth required for the extended PC.

In addition to advanced application support, the 850 chipset was designed with the following features to enhance the end-user experience of audio, video, entertainment and Internet applications.

- 400 MHz system bus delivers a high bandwidth connection between the Intel Pentium 4 processors and the platform. To ensure maximum performance, the system bus is balanced with the dual RDRAM channels at 3.2GB/s, providing 3x the bandwidth of platforms based on Intel Pentium processors.
- Dual RDRAM memory channels, operating in lock step, deliver 3.2 GB/s memory bandwidth to the processor. High memory bandwidth, coupled with an efficient protocol, deliver balanced platform support and provides the memory bandwidth necessary to extract full performance from the Intel Pentium 4 processor.



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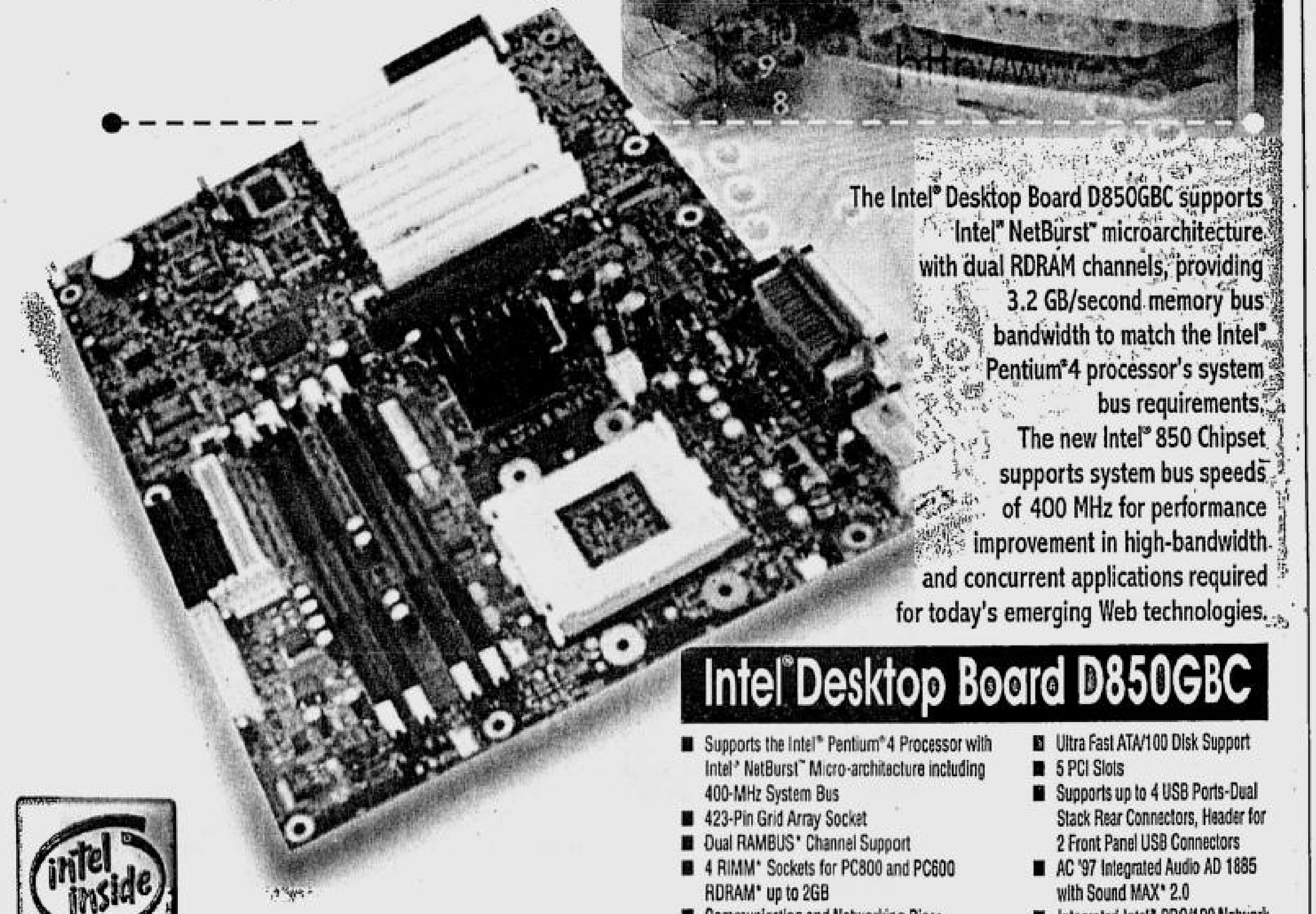

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

October 4

10 a.m.
Exhibit open to Trade Visitors only
10:30 a.m.
Opening Ceremony
8 p.m.
Exhibit closes

October 5

10 a.m.
Exhibit opens to the general public
8 p.m.
exhibit closes

October 6

10 a.m.
Exhibit opens to the general public
8 p.m.
exhibit closes

Ongoing COMDDAP Expo 2001 to showcase basic technologies

COMDDAP Expo 2001, which opened on Oct. 4 is ongoing until Oct. 6 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La. With the theme "Basic Technology for the Future," this year's COMDDAP exhibit will feature technologies needed for daily affairs, whether business or leisure.

Juan G. Chua, director of the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (COMDDAP) and chair of this year's organizing committee, said "the machines that will be featured at COMDDAP Expo 2001 are the latest machines and technologies needed for regular and everyday tasks. "Technology, after all, is only useful if it makes life easier . . . if it makes our tasks simpler," he added. More than just making tasks easier, Chua said that these new technologies can make us more productive.

"Slated for exhibition are the much-awaited Windows XP, wireless applications like wireless LAN and new powerful machines with mind-blowing speeds of up to 1.5 to 1.7 Gigahertz," Chua revealed. "The exhibit will also have machines for multimedia applications, the Internet, animation, etc.," he added.

Aside from exhibiting the latest Information Technology (IT) tools, machines and gadgets, COMDDAP Expo 2001, the largest IT exposition in the country, will also hold a series of seminars designed to update participants and trade visitors on technology.

Among the topics up for discussion are "Borland Total Solutions for Next Generation E-Business," "SMS and Internet Access with your Palmhead," "Applications Using the Rational Suite 2001," "Linx Network Solutions," "Matrox Video Editing Seminar," "Iomega Storage Device," extensive seminars on CAD and others.

> *Slated for exhibition are the much-awaited Windows XP, wireless applications like wireless LAN and new powerful machines with mind-blowing speeds of up to 1.5 to 1.7 Gigahertz*

COMDDAP Expo 2001 opens today

COMDDAP Expo 2001, the largest IT exposition in the country, opens today with Science and Technology Undersecretary Fortunato de la Peña as special guest. Also invited to grace the occasion is Trade Secretary Mar Roxas. Carrying the theme "Basic Technology for the Future," the exhibit will run until Oct. 6 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

The IT show, organized by the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (COMDDAP), is expected to feature the latest IT products and technologies from more than 40 participating companies. These exhibitors are expected to feature a wide variety of products, many of which will make their debut in the local market at the said expo.

Among the machines to be launched are the much-talked about Windows XP, the Canon Image Runner, Masterview and others. "These are machines that we need to make our tasks simpler and easier. Machines that will make us more productive," said Juan G. Chua, chair of the COMDDAP Expo 2001 organizing committee. "Productivity is what is needed during economic slumps, such as what we are experiencing today," he added.

COMDDAP, is a non-stock and non-profit corporation composed of the leading and prominent manufacturers, distributors and dealers of computers, peripherals and related products in the country. The products represented by the members are manufactured by the world's leading computer and peripheral makers.

COMDDAP expositions, meanwhile, have traditionally been the undisputed computer and information technology expo in the country for the past 15 years. These expos have always been gathering points for IT entrepreneurs and enthusiasts, alike. The event offers a venue for forging and rebuilding partnerships, creating joint ventures, acquiring license-agreements, facilitating technology transfers and other benefits.

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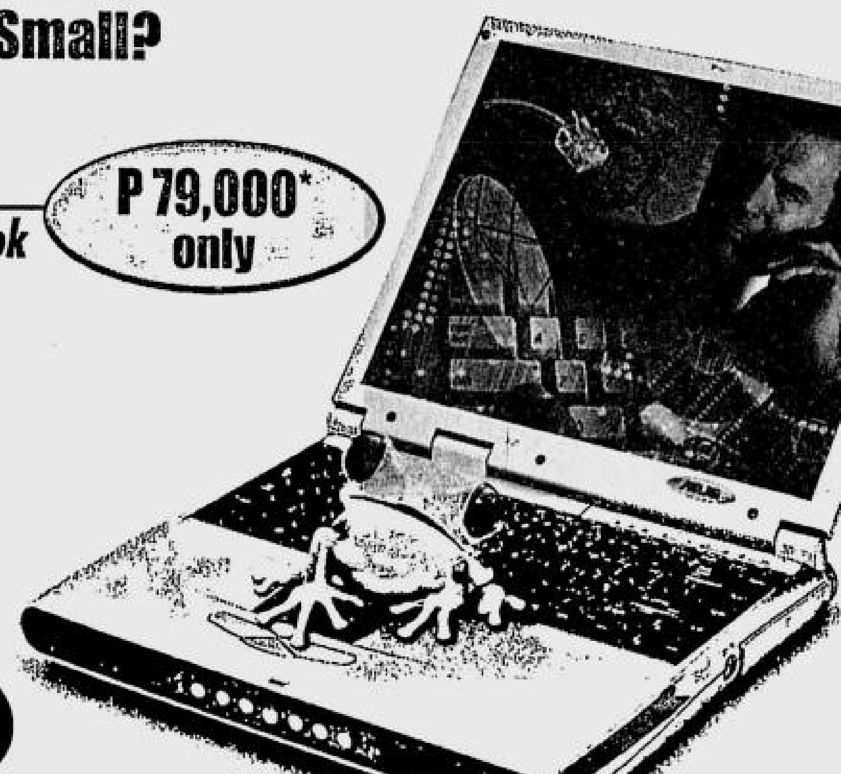

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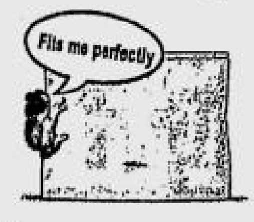

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

LITTLE GYM OPENS 4TH BRANCH

The Little Gym of East Quezon City, a fitness-based total development center, recently had its grand opening party at the second level of Shoppersville Supermarket on Katipunan Avenue in Loyola Heights. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by (front row, from left) CFO of Shoppersville Supermarket and Albert-Araneta Enterprises Ito Samson; Mika and Victoria Puyat, the longest-staying members of The Little Gym franchise system in the Philippines; and Lino Illera, special assistant to and representative of QC mayor Sonny Belmonte. Also shown were (back row, from left) The Little Gym Philippine Franchise owner and president Helen Limcaoco, former PCGG chair David M. Castro, and TG Limcaoco (partly hidden). The other branches of The Little Gym are found at the fifth level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong, third level of Filinvest SuperMall in Alabang, and DPSI business center on Nicanor Garcia Street in Makati.

BEST EMPLOYER BANK

The International Exchange Bank (iBank) made it on the list of the region's top employers, based on 'The Best Employers in Asia' survey conducted in partnership with Hewitt Associates, The Asian Wall Street Journal and the Far Eastern Economic Review. 42 companies and 11,616 employees took part in the Philippine study. Participants come from 22 different industry sectors, making the Philippine study the most diverse, sector-wise. Shown are Hewitt Associates region manager for South Asia Ravi Virmani, Far Eastern Economic Review deputy editor David Plott, iBank president and chief executive officer Ramon Sy and Management Association of the Philippines president Ricardo Pascua.

HALLMARK CANDY SHOWTIME

Hallmark Channel recently gathered SkyCable's I-Club members for an extravaganza full of fun and excitement. The Brain Candy Showtime was held at the Festival mall in Alabang, specially held for kids to have fun and learn at the same time. Several activities, including games, storytelling sessions, face painting, and a fashion show featuring the latest in kids' wear were held as a treat for the kids, with all the activities referring to the educational shows on the channel's Kid's Block, like 'Sesame Street', 'Clifford', and the new show 'Caillou.' Filstar Distributors Corp., the local licensee of Hallmark Cards, filled the venue with whimsical balloon arrangements, while Blooming Handkerchiefs Manufacturing Corp., JC Lucas Creative Products, and Click, the local licensee of Sesame Street and Clifford merchandise, provided the prizes for the games. Another co-sponsor, Intel, also raffled off a brand new QX3 Plus Computer Microscope. Shown is HEN Asia-Pacific associate director for marketing and communications Anna Lee (2nd from left) and Cookie Monster, with the lucky winner of a brand new Intel QX3 Plus Computer Microscope.

FIVE LADIES AND A BRIDAL FAIR

Marathon Publishing's Weddings Magazine and Rita Neri of the Wedding Store recently signed sponsorship agreements with marketing officials of three firms for Weddings 2001, A Bridal Fair and Fashion Show. Shown are Sali Sauco, Goldilocks' marketing manager, Rita Neri, E. Excel International's PR Supervisor Caros Roxas, Marathon's Margie Quimpo-Espino and HSBC's corporate marketing officer Cristine Santillan. Weddings 2001 will be on Oct. 5 and 6 at the Glorietta Activity Area, Ayala Center, Makati City. The fair and show are open to the public. The fashion show will feature the biggest bridal collection of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines, in cooperation with top fashion designer Frederick Peralta and beauty expert Ricky Reyes.

COLGATE'S 'ATRAS ABANTE' WINNER

Colgate Palmolive Philippines Inc. (CPPI), makers of Palmolive Naturals Shampoo and Axion Dishwashing Paste/Liquid, awards a new Mitsubishi Adventure GL to Elsa A. Evangelista of Makati City (third from left), lucky winner in the 'Atras Abante' game portion of ABS-CBN's 'Magandang Tanghali Bayan.' Handing over her papers is Tristan L. Leveriza, CPP media and promotions manager (second from left). With them are Pat P. Sarmiento, Universal Motors senior sales manager (extreme left) and Elsa's relatives.

Recession likely as global outlook grows more dire

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Reserve slashed borrowing costs to their lowest level in nearly 40 years on Tuesday as a top Bush economic adviser admitted what many had been saying for weeks—a US recession was likely.

The gloomy assessment came three weeks after attacks on the United States sent shudders through the global economy, leading the US central bank to cut rates to their lowest level since 1962 in an attempt to battle the bleak economic outlook.

The Fed's move came as Europe's outlook grew more dire.

For weeks, policymakers around the world have been working in chorus as cheerleaders, proclaiming that the right actions could avert economic stagnation, statements made in the knowledge that maintaining consumer confidence would be key to avoiding a deeper downturn.

But with the evidence consistently stacking up on the recession side of the global economic ledger, one official US economic guru conceded the seemingly inevitable.

"These 'supply shock' consequences of the attacks substantially reduce the growth rate of GDP during the third and fourth quarters of 2001, and increase significantly the likelihood that the economy is in a recession," White House economic adviser Glenn Hubbard told Congress.

Hubbard, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, is the first in President George W. Bush's economic team to openly speculate that the world's richest economy might be in recession, although he tempered his words with the caveat that it was too soon to tell for sure.

The powerful US central bank slashed key short-term interest rates by a half a percentage point for the second time this month, taking the federal funds overnight lending rate to a 39-year low of 2.5 percent in its ninth reduction this year.

The Fed said the attacks "significantly heightened uncertainty" in the already weak US economy and added that inflation was not a primary risk—a sign it stood ready to take further action if needed.

US stocks initially fell on the Fed's concern about heightened uncertainty but posted a late rally to close about one percent higher after a choppy and uneven afternoon of trading. *Reuters*

Fed cuts interest rates by half-point

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve on Tuesday slashed short-term interest rates a half-percentage point, its ninth cut this year, and said it was poised to lower borrowing costs again as it tried to avert the growing threat of a US recession in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee cut the federal funds rate governing overnight interbank loans to 2.5 percent, bringing the rate to its lowest level since 1962 during the Kennedy administration. The discount rate, which applied to emergency Fed loans to banks, was cut a similar amount to 2 percent.

The Fed said the devastating attacks on New York and Washington that left nearly 6,000 dead or missing "significantly heightened uncertainty" in the already weakened US economy.

"Nonetheless, the long-term prospects for productivity growth and the economy remain favorable and should become evident once the unusual forces restraining demand abate," the Fed said in a statement explaining the decision.

Stocks seesawed following the announcement.

While the US economy was already shaky prior to the attacks, many analysts believed the assaults ensured at least a short recession by sapping consumer and business confidence. In its statement, the Fed said the economy still faced a greater risk of weakness than of inflation, a signal that the central bank stood ready to cut rates further.

Wall Street economists had widely expected the Fed to make a cut of this magnitude. In a Reuters survey of firms that deal directly with the Fed in the government debt market, 21 of 25 had anticipated a half-percentage point cut.

The Fed has moved forcefully since the Sept. 11 attacks to try to soften the blow to consumer and business confidence and to keep an ample supply of liquidity in the economy.

The US central bank cut the federal funds rate a half percentage point on Sept. 17 between regular meetings, a move joined by the United States' key trading partners.

In addition, central banks around the world quickly pumped tens of billions of dollars into the banking system to ensure that businesses and consumers would not encounter problems in settling business transactions.

After the latest cut, the fed funds rate is below the 2.7-percent annual rate of increase in consumer prices recorded in August.

But analysts note the Fed focuses on a different prices measure called the personal consumption expenditures index in the quarterly gross domestic product report. The PCE price gauge advanced at a 1.3-percent rate in the second quarter, which meant the federal funds rate still could fall some distance before "real," inflation-adjusted rates hit zero.

Private economists say the economy is almost certainly in a recession since the Sept. 11 attacks because of an expected pullback in consumer spending, which fuels two-thirds of national economic activity. *Reuters*

Wall Street counting on more cuts

NEW YORK—Wall Street is counting on more Federal Reserve interest rate cuts before the year ends to counter a feared recession following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, a new poll taken after Tuesday's half-point rate cut showed.

With many on Wall Street already convinced the country is in a recession, there is a growing consensus the central bank will reduce its benchmark federal funds rate to 2.0 percent in the next three months.

Of 25 primary dealers of US government securities polled, 17 predicted a 2-percent funds rate by Dec. 31 and eight said it would be 2.25 percent.

The survey was conducted after the policy setting Federal Open Market Committee cut the funds rate from 3 to 2.5 percent on Tuesday, its ninth reduction this year and second half-point cut since Sept. 11. The rate now stands at its lowest point since 1962.

"I think fourth-quarter gross domestic product could be negative as well as the third quarter, which means that a 2-percent fed funds is still in the cards," said Ian Morris, chief US economist at HSBC Securities (USA) in New York. *Reuters*

A SWISSAIR employee sits behind a counter at the Zurich airport as a message over the loudspeakers tells hundreds of stranded passengers they will not be compensated for their now apparently worthless Swissair tickets and advises them to buy new tickets elsewhere. Swiss flag carrier Swissair stopped flying on Tuesday as what little cash it had left ran out, fuel supplies dried up and airports insisted on prompt payment of landing fees.
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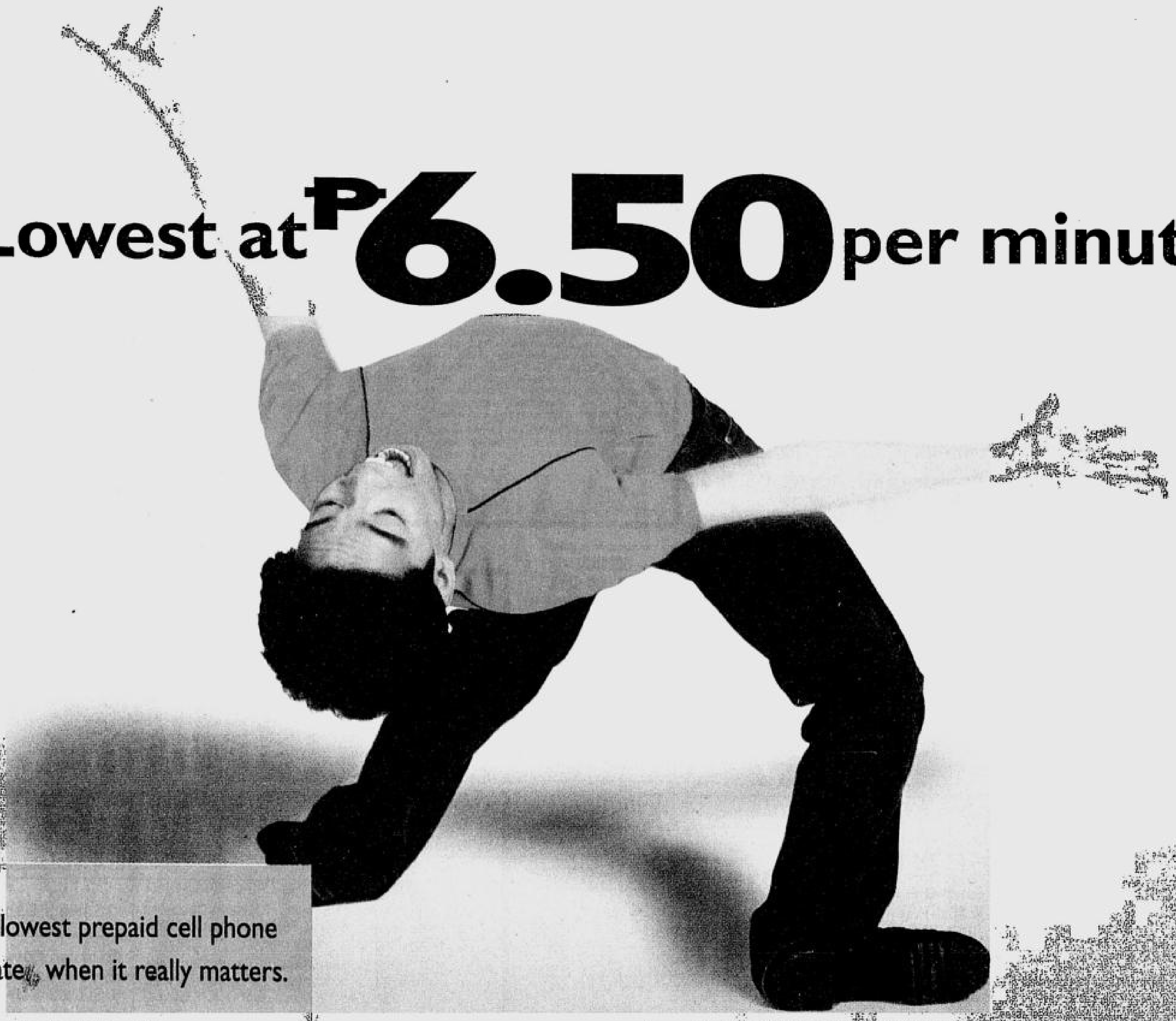

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QUEZON CITY

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APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

2B/R U-D 3620065 Briones 7Ave

MAKATI

Comm. Apt. beside Makati City Hall 8103019

QUEZON CITY

Two Storey Apt. 115 Baco St. S.M.H. QC Tel.7355414

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MAKATI

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QUEZON CITY

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MB H-ACE L3 URVAN 825-7135

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Contact: Tel. No. 412-8535
for interview appointment

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **ROYAL FOUNTAIN DESIGN, INC.** with address at Liloan, Cebu for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918 as **New Export Producer of Stone-Inlaid Fountains and its Related Products** at a capacity of 24,000 Pieces Per Year and with proposed plant site at Liloan, Cebu, has been officially accepted on September 27, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **CHITA O. ANGELES**
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI – Oct. 4, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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- Coordinating sales and marketing strategies with top management in the head office.

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Good marketing knowledge and understanding of the local **MEAT & FROZEN** foods industry.

Independent, self-motivated & resourceful

Possess good analytical ability and able to make quick & sound business decisions.

Must possess a degree and with 10 years working experience, of which at least 5 years in related fields such as foodservice, supermarket or fast foods.

Interested candidates, please write or e-mail your detailed resumé with photograph stating current & expected salaries to:

HR Department
8, Senoko South Road,
Singapore 758095

Attn: Ms Lucy Ong

E-mail to: lucy.ong@country-foods.com.sg

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all eligible bidders to prequalify and to bid for the year 2002 services to wit:

A. PUBLIC BIDDING	B. SEALED BIDDING (2nd INVITATION)
PRINTING & BINDING OF THE "RECORD OF THE SENATE" a) Vol. I, First Regular Session, Eleventh Congress covering the period July 27 to September 29, 1998 (200 cps. with 832 pages/copy)	1. Garbage Disposal
b) Vol. IV, Third Regular Session, Tenth Congress covering the period January 20 to February 20 and May 25, 1998 (200 cps. with 1,527 pages/copy)	2. Rental of Drinking Fountains 3. Sanitizers/Deodorizers
c) Vol. II, Second Regular Session, Tenth Congress covering the period January 20 to June 5 (PM), 1997 (200 cps. with 676 pages/copy)	4. Subscription to Cable TV 5. Supply of Flowers

Prospective bidders for the PUBLIC BIDDING may obtain the prequalification requirements at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City from **8-12 October 2001**. Deadline for the submission of complete and duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **15 October 2001**. Incomplete requirements will not be entertained. The pre-bidding conferences and bidding schedules shall be announced to all prequalified bidders.

All bids under the public bidding category must be accomplished by a bid bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price or Php 10,000 **whichever is higher** in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. **Late bids will be rejected.**

Bidders participating in the SEALED BIDDING may secure requirements from the Property and Procurement Services (PPS) located at Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City from **8-12 October 2001**. Schedule of conferences for services under the same category if any, will be announced later including the deadline for the dropping of bids.

Winning bidders from both categories shall post a performance bond in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract price. For prepaid contracts, the performance bond shall be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THEIR AWARD, AND TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN, AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Oct. 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

15th Corrugated Boards & RSC Box Cost Estimating
Workshop
Tuesday Oct. 9, 2001
Time: 8:00-11:30 A.M. at
MANDARIN HOTEL
MAKATI CITY
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Pls. be notified that PR Nos. 40201-40205 (orig./Acctg./file copies) of CENTRAL BOOKSTORE INC. & Nos. 40503 (orig. copy) of STRAIGHT LINES INT'L was lost last Feb. 2001. Any transactions under these nos. shall not be honored by the co.THE MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.
Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days Without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. LDJ

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg., 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 * 4214 * 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/ SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

I. ITEMS DESCRIPTION/LOCATION — SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

	ITEMS DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1	Generator Trains & Generators at Bldg. 8090 & 8325 Yard, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 2:00 p.m.
Lot 2	12 x Condemned Buildings at SBIA, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 2:30 p.m.
Lot 3	50 Ton Portal Crane at Alava Pier, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 3:00 p.m.
Lot 4	Abandoned Furniture, Fixtures & Other Properties by Subic Live, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 3:30 p.m.
Lot 5	Abandoned Properties by Seaway Marines, Philippine Inc., SBMA	October 18, 2001, 4:00 p.m.
Lot 6	Abandoned Properties by Great China Airlines, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 4:30 p.m.

II. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on **October 11, 2001, Thursday (5:00 p.m.).** No extension.

IV. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on **October 15, 2001, Monday (3:00 p.m.).**

V. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or Manager's Check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

VI. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1 & 3	**October 10, 2001**	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lot 2 & 6	**October 11, 2001**	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lot 4 & 5	**October 12, 2001**	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4214/4483 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 3rd day of October 2001.

(Sgd.) **CAPT. VICTOR L. MAMON**
SDA for Operations &
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI – Oct. 4, 5 & 6, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

21 September 2001

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contract listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Million)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
Palo Housing Project (Remaining Works), Bgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte	Road, water, drainage and survey works	P2.20	At least "C"	Small B for Roads

A. Eligibility Statement forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.

D. Deadline of submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on **October 5, 2001.** Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 9, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI – Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
Province of Maguindanao
MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN KUDARAT
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY TO BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the ADB for the Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) and the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Maguindanao, is one of the 140 ARCs identified by DAR-ADB-ARCP.

The Municipal Government of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, a local partner of the DAR-ADB-ARCP, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Proposed Improvement/Concreting of Alamada-Panatan Road, located at Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao in accordance with the hereunder work packages.

Description of Project: **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT/CONCRETING OF ALAMADA-PANATAN ROAD**

Major Items of Work Quantity/Unit	Quantity
1. Clearing and Grubbing	12,540.00 sq.m.
2. Roadway Excavation	7,661.00 cu.m.
3. Pipe Culvert and Drain Excavation	125.00 cu.m.
4. Embankment	221.00 cu.m.
5. Sub-grade Preparation	17,400.00 cu.m.
6. Aggregate Sub-base Coarse	1,740.00 cu.m.
7. Aggregate Base Coarse	1,740.00 cu.m.
8. PCCP	1,741.00 cu.m.
9. Pipe Culvert	40.00 pieces

Bidding Date: **OCTOBER 31, 2001 at Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao Municipal Hall**
No. of Calendar Days to complete: **125 working days**
Total length of project: **2,900 meters**

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting **September 26, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) per package. Pre-bid conference will be held on **October 22, 2001** at Sultan Kudarat Municipal Hall.

All bids must be accompanied by a corresponding security bid bond in a form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, and Bank Draft of an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency and must be delivered to the Municipal Government of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao on or before bidding date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bidding dates in the presence of participating bidder or representative who chose to attend.

The PBAC-SK, Maguindanao, ARMM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bidder.

(Sgd.) **DATU TUCAO O. MASTURA, CPA**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – Oct. 4 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all registered Life Insurance Companies and Health Maintenance Organizations to pre-qualify, to bid and to service the NFA Group Hospitalization, Term Life and Accident Insurance Programs for 4816 employees and Executive Health Care Program for 138 executives for the year 2002. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

October 5-10, 2001	- Issuance of pre-qualification requirements
October 18, 2001	- Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification documents
October 24-25, 2001	- Issuance of bid documents
October 29, 2001(10:00 AM)	- Pre-bidding conference
November 6, 2001	
(9:15-10:00 AM)	- Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	- Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA**
Officer-In-Charge, DLA and
Vice Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Oct. 4 & 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

28 Sept. 2001

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 and 2607 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, and in view of the fact that the hereunder listed articles are liable to perish, will be wasted or will depreciate greatly in value, there will be a "PUBLIC AUCTION SALE" (Sealed Bidding) on **OCTOBER 04, 11, 18 & 25, 2001** at 1:30 PM, at the Office of Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila.

"Rice, Sugar, Chinese Cooking Wine, Surplus, Angel Figurine, Cassette Head Cleaner, Aluminum Foil, Raw Materials for making Toothpaste, Used Motor Vehicles, Busses, Fork Compressor for Honda Scooter, Used Separator, Glass Bottle, TRONER Diamond Vodka, Alarm Clocks, Slippers, Used Tires, Household Appliances, RTWs, Picnic Bags, Dustbin Plastic, Straw Hats, Eli Brand Natural Spring Water, Ceramic Bricks, Medical Equipment, Metal Parts, Aluminum Crutches, Snowboard, Household Goods/Personal Effects, Opthalmic Neodynium Yag Laser Machine, Used Heavy Equipment and some other interesting items.

CASH BOND REQUIRED: P10,000.00

For particulars, please see or contact the Chief, Atty. REYNALDO P. AVELINO of Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila. Tel. No. 527-80-51 Local 437.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FELIPE A. BARTOLOME**
District Collector
Port of Manila

IMPORTANT:

Pursuant to Customs Administrative Order No. 3-94, approved on March 18, 1994, as implemented by CMO No. 12-94 dated April 7, 1994, a Registration Fee of Two Thousand (P2,000.00) Pesos is required to be eligible to participate in the auction sale.

(PDI--Oct. 4, 2001)

www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER OBITUARIES

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

ROSARIO BORJA LOPEZ

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on the 2nd day of October 2001 at the age of 77.

Her loving husband **TEDDY**; children **CYNTHIA & JUN, DANILO, DODY & MARLYN, GINA**; grandchildren **JAN PAOLO, JEAN MARIE, FRANCIS TED, MA. CATALINA, JOSEMARIA, MA. STELLA & MA. ROSARIO JACINTA**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 6, 2001 at La Loma Cemetery after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Santisimo Rosario Church, UST, Manila.

DR. CESAR P. DELOS REYES, SR.

Peacefully joined the Creator on 2 October 2001 at the age of 69.

His loving wife **JOSEFINA**; children **CECILLE** and **SERGIO, SUSAN** and **BOYING, JOJI** and **EMIL, CESAR II** and **VENET, ROLAND, TONY** and **DULCE, PATRICK**; brothers and sisters **JOE, BECKY, BERT, ADRING**; grandchildren **NICO, RONA, JANELLE, YEN-YEN, MICKEY, SHARMAINE, CZARA, CESAR III, CHRISTIANA, TIMOTHY**; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 6, 2001 at Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Felicidad Reyes vda. de Gonzales

(Pharmacia Gonzales)

Peacefully joined our Lord on 2 October 2001 at the age of 76.

Her children **Bessie** and **Totie San Juan, Edith** and **Tide Ajero, Boyet** and **Bam, Edwin, Timmy** and **Lynette**; and grandchildren request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 06, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. at the Infinito Memorial Park, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die, God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

AUREA ROSAS-ARREZA

of Cantilan, Surigao Sur

Peacefully joined Her Creator on October 1, 2001 at the age of 67.

Her remains lie in state at Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 6, 2001 at Heavens Gate Memorial Park 1, after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

DONATILA (DONNA) PECSON PALMA

Born on July 30, 1949 and died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 3, 2001.

Her beloved sisters **Elisea P. Vda. de Hofer, Presy P. Candoy** and **Josie P. Palma**; brothers **Ricardo, Emiliano, Faustino** and **Saturnino Palma** as well as brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends deeply mourn her passing from her earthly life but rejoice in her continuing life with Christ.

Her body lies at the Sacred Heart Parish, Dao, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will take place on Saturday, October 6, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Manila South Cemetery.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE

SATURNINA ZARATE VDA. DE UYTIEPO

FEBRUARY 16, 1906 - OCTOBER 2, 2001

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 95.

Her loving children **John, Morgan, Benjamin, Teresita, Mercedes, Daniel, Miguel**; daughters-in-law **Mary Barba** (†), **Aurora Reynon** (†), **Dolores Anden, Demetria Sinfuego**, and **Mildred Rojas**; son-in-law **Demetrio A. Quirino, Jr.**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Wake is at the Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel, Mabini St., Sangitan, Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2001 at the Sagrada Familia Memorial Park after the 5:30 a.m. Mass at the Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel.

TOYOTA REVO SR-J

‘Absolute People Carrier’

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO
AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

THIS is expected as a revealing test drive. Just months ago, we test-drove the Revo GSX with disappointing results. To those who said the review was unfair, we say, it wasn't. We did point out in a very objective manner, the level of comfort and luxury the GSX had over other AUVs. It was the powertrain that was lackluster and disappointing.

The rest rated favorably with all the testers.

So what could make the Revo SR-J any different? After all it shares the same engine and drivetrain with the GSX. Underhood is Toyota's 1RZ-E gasoline-propelled powerplant, and in all likelihood, even the gearing of the automatic transmission is the same (or is it?). If both AUVs were built on similar powertrains, why did the SR-J provide a more satisfying drive?

Same difference

Raymond: Don't ask me. I've been looking over the specification sheets again and again and see no difference in numbers. In fact, the SR-J is 15 kilograms heavier than the GSX. The specs are the same throughout, right down to the wheel diameter and tire size.

Tessa: So how would we explain the Revo SRJ that is a far cry from the Revo GLX that we recently tried and abhorred during overtakes? Well, I won't attempt to explain it lest I be accused of being an automaker PR. Anyway, so what gives?

Raymond: I remember months ago, during the height of Edsa Dos, you described the SR-J as the Absolute People Carrier (APC).

Tessa: Like those armored vehicles? Yup, yup. Well, it seems a perfect vehicle during those days when defection and coups were the "in" thing.

Raymond: I must agree. The Revo (whether GSX, SR-J, GLX) is an excellent people carrier. You can stuff in 9 adults with a certain level of comfort. Its short stint with me was quite satisfying. I folded all the rear benches, spread a thin mattress and a quilt cover and made a huge sleeping space for the boys. It was the perfect rolling bed for those long trips to the in-laws. Just remember to secure the benches when folded. I had this feeling they'd fall under hard braking or when traveling over bumpy roads.

Tessa: In my case, we stuffed in 12 people on a trip from Manila to Zambales and back, on full stomachs and all. But this beast of burden never complained. You wouldn't feel overloaded, unless you were at the back area where five passengers felt they contracted arthritis from the trip. We really filled that part up really good, I guess. The AUV only fitted in four passengers in that part. We even put in the cooler and the luggage, and the swimming gear with the "fab five."

TOYOTA Revo SR-J

Noisy out, quiet in

Raymond: Many of our colleagues have pointed out how noisy the Revo engine is.

Tessa: Is it? I recall it to be quieter than most AUVs.

Raymond: Yeah, quieter than a diesel. Inside there is very little noise. It's well-padded where it counts and there is very low vibration. Even road noise is isolated to a higher degree than some other AUVs. But step outside and you'll hear that clucking engine. Sounds more like a sulfur burner than a fuel-injected gasoline engine.

Tessa: Reminds me of silent water runs deep sort of thing.

Raymond: The air-conditioning is fine. Excellent. It has a larger capacity compressor that keeps both blowers pumping in the cooled air. And the audio system is fine too, except that I couldn't use the CD player. No shuttle. Like you said in your article, sabotage.

Tessa: Powerful dual air-conditioners kept all the corners of the vehicle cool and comfy despite cramped conditions.

Raymond: For a while I thought the radio has gone berserk. It intermittently turned off and on and kept switching stations. Possessed! Then I took off the control face and snapped it back on. That exorcised it, and it hasn't acted up since.

Tessa: My experience was different. I remembered one of my passengers yelled "sabotage!" when the CD changer proved to be a disappointment. The alpine stereo at that time kept on saying "no magazine." It turned out that a disc was struck inside the player.

Commanding view

Raymond: The Revo offers a panoramic view with very little obstruction from the roof pillars. The huge Hi-Ace-like side mirrors provide excellent rear vision. (Take note that I've adjusted them like you mentioned in your previous article, and it worked well.)

Tessa: Proof that the pudding is in the eating.

Raymond: It isn't surefooted and a bit tail happy. But that is expected from the high ground clearance. You don't drive a Revo like you would a Corolla so don't expect any "clip the apex" maneuvers from me. It handles well and the pedals are firm. The brakes though need a little more foot action than I want. Once actuated however, you can get really huge flat spots on the tires if you overdo it.

Tessa: And the turning radius was admirably small, as it did several U turns on narrow roads.

Raymond: Here is the million-peso question. Why does the SR-J, equipped with the same powertrain as the GSX, feel so much powerful and quicker?

Leather jacket

Raymond: The leather interior is in gray. Very subdued and likeable. Easy to clean, too.

Tessa: Smooth leather seats and all.

Raymond: But don't you think a two-tone variation, say in black and gray (or in black with red stripes) will go a long way in living up to its Sport Runner handle?

Tessa: I guess so.

Raymond: Gladly no one thought of wood trim here. I wish there was a shift indicator in the dashboard.

Tessa: I wish there was a vanity mirror under the driver's sun visor.

Raymond: I wish there were tie-downs, or straps, or belts, or there was a locking mechanism to hold the rear bench when fully folded.

Tessa: I wish its seating capacity was 12.

Better than the GSX?

Raymond: Look, the GSX is aimed at a totally different market—thus the sportier rim design, fancy flying graphic and cool blackish color. The SR-J is for the Harley Davidson-loving type of person.

Tessa: Does that make it better?

Raymond: It's not necessarily better than the GSX in terms of package. What I still cannot understand is why it performed much better than the GSX.

Tessa: Break in?

Raymond: That's not needed.

Tessa: Bad fuel?

Raymond: Possible.

Tessa: Throttle cable?

Raymond: Could be.

Tessa: Angsty mood?

Raymond: How about psychological trauma?

Tessa: Haha. No comment.

Amazingly, the SR-J produced acceleration times approximately 2 to 5 seconds better than the GSX both at 0-100 and at 60-100. For this the Toyota Revo GSX gets an **8 out of 10** total points. Highs for space and passenger comfort, especially the reclining rear split bench that isn't hampered by the two facing rearmost seats. One could say it has a lot of redeeming value.

Cat's eyes: Boon or bane?

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

YOU see them everywhere: on the tollway, C-5, superhighways, national roads and the private roads of residential subdivisions. Cat's eyes are aluminum objects, square, or wedge-shaped, with plastic reflector on two sides. They are embedded into or glued to the surface of the road to serve as lane markers or as warning indicators of a forthcoming intersection, road hump or pedestrian lane. At night, they are highly visible because of their reflector sides.

Lined up in the middle of a two-way road, cat's eyes show the direction of the road and define the parameters of each way/lane, thereby guiding the motorist in the dark. By showing the way, cat's eyes are especially helpful at night, when driving is trickier not only because of decreased visibility but also because at the end of the day most people are tired and less alert.

On the other hand, cat's eyes can wreak havoc on your tires if you fail to slow down when driving over them. Some locally manufactured cat's eyes are designed with a high, rather sharp profile that poses a danger to tires. Repeated driving over high-ridged cat's eyes may not immediately cause a flat tire, but it certainly won't do any good for your tires over the long haul.

In the case of a cat's eye that is attached to the road by means of a spike embedded in the pavement, the body can break off, leaving the spike protruding upright from the pavement. In Metro Manila, there are streets where the spikes of lost or broken cat's eyes can be seen sticking out of the pavement. Example: Wilson Street in San Juan, at the Ortigas Avenue intersection. The spikes have been there for decades, damaging the tires of passing motorists, but the local government unit apparently hasn't noticed.

As for cat's eyes that adhere to the pavement of the road, the quality of the epoxy used determines their staying power. Imported (from Australia) cat's eyes reportedly cost three times more than the local ones (P600 to P700 each compared to P200 each) because they stick better, have a bigger reflector area and a lower, smoother profile that poses less risk to tires.

But whether they're locally made or imported, cat's eyes are meant for installation in cemented or concrete roads, not in those paved with asphalt. Under the heat of the sun, asphalt tends to get soft. This softening of the pavement combined with the pressure of the weight of motor vehicles running over them results in the cat's eyes or the reflector sides thereof eventually sinking out of sight. Examples of sinking cat's eyes: Alabang-Zapote Road, in front of the Alabang Public Market.

When cat's eyes are installed one and a half to two meters apart, you can avoid driving over them and conserve not only your tires, but also the cat's eyes themselves. The problem is that in some villages, such as BF Homes Parañaque, the cat's eyes preceding road humps are installed only a few inches apart.

In Ayala Alabang Village, where yellow cat's eyes have been installed across main roads to forewarn motorists that they are approaching a hump or intersection, the barangay is thinking of placing a blue cat's eye in the middle of the road to signal to firemen the presence of a fire hydrant nearby. AAV barangay board member Joey Eustaquio III, who is in charge of the cat's eyes project, is proposing the installation of blue cat's eyes beside the sidewalks of houses that have swimming pools. This way, firemen are informed that in the absence of a fire hydrant, they can draw water from the swimming pool to put out a fire in the neighborhood

* * *

HOW TO BEAT THE CAR BAN. Can't use your car one day every week because of the "color coding" rule? Get an Alay Lakad 2001 Commemorative License Plate and attach it over your car's front license plate. Authorized by Land Transportation Office Chief Gen. Edgardo Abenina and approved by the Metro Manila Development Authority, the Alay Lakad plate will exempt your car from color coding until March 02, 2003. What's more, the P1,500 you pay for it will fund the Alay Lakad Foundation's socio-economic programs for out-of-school youths. For private car owners only. Call the Alay Lakad Foundation at 522-6134 or 523-1539.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: When you do a good deed, get a receipt in case heaven is like the BIR.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph.

F150 SuperCrew

Heading south aboard the F150 SuperCrew

TEXT AND PHOTO
BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

GREAT time, grand view and good company; the obvious parallels between joining in an adventure tour and riding in a Ford truck. Though this was my second time to join a Shell-Citibank Gold Mastercard and Ford-sponsored adventuré tour, my enthusiasm has never diminished.

The three-day southern tour brought us this time to not-so-familiar destinations in Batangas— Balai Resort and Mt. Dagoldol in San Juan, and Napayong Island in Taal Lake (and I thought Nasugbu and Anilao were the only places to visit in this province).

3 road monsters

To get there, Ford lent us three different road monsters: the F150 SuperCrew Lariat 4x4, the 2001 Explorer Sport Trac and the 2001 Chateau Wagon. Since this is going to be a long ride (4 to 5 hours) on mostly uneven and potholed highways, I chose to ride on the SuperCrew. I'm quite sure the SuperCrew's muscular and aerodynamic body is up to the challenge.

Indeed, this four-wheel-drive truck roared along the South Luzon Expressway with ease. No one dared to overtake us since they would know how this truck's 4.6L Triton V8 engine will react if challenged. I could almost feel the truck's maximum 220 horsepower (at 4,500 rpm) every time the driver steps on the accelerator.

I felt so privileged riding on this truck, since we get occasional glances from drivers we just passed by, perhaps wondering who were inside the Ford convoy. I can't blame them because with the SuperCrew's intimidating stance, handsome bumper system and honeycomb grille, anybody would surely take a second look.

Special features

Unlike other Ford trucks, the SuperCrew offers four full-size doors that provide convenient access for passengers, especially those sitting at the back. The 60/40 split rear seat increases interior space versatility since it easily accommodated us five passengers together with our bags and equipment.

The trip was never boring since we have so many things to do inside the SuperCrew—like fiddling with every button and luxury amenities inside the cabin. Special mention goes to the overhead console that displays a compass and outside temperature control. Of course, there's the moonroof, which as we were informed, is unique for trucks under 8,500 lb gross vehicle weight.

If only the SuperCrew could come with us to the mountain, we wouldn't have tired ourselves climbing. Alas, we left the Fords at Balai Resort San Juan, the nearest jump-off point and headed to Mt. Dagoldol's summit more than 3,000 ft above sea level.

Second leg

The next morning, we proceeded to the tour's second leg—in another Balai resort this time in Anilao. Here, we were scheduled to have introductory diving and wind surfing lessons. Only the diving pushed through the next day since strong winds didn't allow us to windsurf. Too risky for us apprentices.

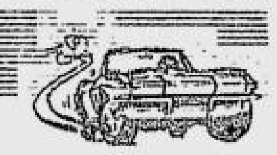
On the final day of our tour, we went to Napayungan Island where our rappelling and lake kayaking took place. The strong winds seemed to have followed up to the lake. While crossing, we were met by waves strong enough to give jitters to some of us. It also prevented our group from kayaking so we just concentrated on the 30-foot cliff where we did our rappelling.

This special adventure package was arranged by Real Outdoor Adventure (real_outdoors@hotmail.com or 932-7273) whose people accompanied us throughout the duration of the southern tour. ROA will be offering similar packages to interested Citibank cardholders.

Zanardi accident haunts Tagliani

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza



THE MAN who hit the car of top car racer Alex Zanardi that led to the amputation of Zanardi's two legs remains conscience stricken. Alex Tagliani says, "I can't stop thinking about the crash."

The Associated Press filed the report below. It was e-mailed to me by my "e-mail pal" Arnel Doria of Honda.

"ROCKINGHAM, England—Alex Tagliani can't stop thinking about the crash that cost Alex Zanardi his legs.

"Tagliani smashed into Zanardi's car at 200 mph during the recent CART race in Germany after Zanardi lost control pulling out of pit road.

"There's not five minutes that go by that I don't start thinking about him," Tagliani said. "I brush my teeth, I think about him.... In the shower I think about him. I don't think about the crash; I think about the guy. Nothing will take Alex out of my head, probably forever."

"Zanardi's legs were amputated at the knee.

"Tagliani was hospitalized for a day in the same Berlin hospital where Zanardi is recovering. Tagliani escaped with only a sore back.

"As soon as I jump in the car—when I start running—my head will be thinking about so many things, about setup, technical things," he said. "I will be concentrating on driving and stuff like that. I will be happy, I will be fine.

"Tagliani said he has seen the accident several times on tape.

"I decided to go low as he went on track and—bang," Tagliani said. "The data show that I turned really hard to the left and locked the brakes when I saw that I would not be able to do anything else.

"Tagliani said he was consoled at the clinic by Zanardi's wife, Daniela. She assured him he wasn't responsible.

"The Canadian driver also described how Zanardi's wife sent a letter to Tagliani's mother, Gabriella, in Montreal.

"She was really nice with me," he said. "She didn't want to see me with the feelings, the responsibility of guilt. She sent my mom a letter to help....When I was talking to my mom after the accident, I was crying and didn't feel right.

"Tagliani said only one thing will keep him from thinking about the crash—seeing Zanardi healthy and walking again with the help of artificial legs."

I can understand the predicament that Tagliani's into right now. Let's pray for his peace of mind.

* * *

I doff my hat to Ramir Racelis, Honda Shaw's service and parts manager. Our family doctor told me that Mr. Racelis is No. 1 when it comes to customer satisfaction.

"He really went out of his way to look after my needs," said Dr. Nanding Lopez, who brought his Honda Civic last week for service. "I have yet to see a car company executive who takes extra efforts to ensure the satisfaction of his customers to the hilt."

Tin Tin (Reyes), take a bow, please?

* * *

Congratulations to Tiara Commercial and Industrial Corp. for having recently finished its series of Pitstop nationwide visits. It was part of the company's product awareness campaign, according to Nilo Luna.

The visits tackled seminars on tire and battery maintenance, oil change and numerous safety tips on vehicle protection.

I've always known Tiara, whose products include Michelin and Kumbo tires and Boss batteries, to be a reputable corporation.

Cheers Tony (Ang)!

* * *

QUOTE ME. **Make it a habit to have a pair of pliers, screwdriver and flashlight in your car.**

Isuzu displays latest models

THE COUNTRY'S diesel technology authority Isuzu Philippines Corp. is treating the motoring public anew to a rare opportunity of being up close and personal with the latest lineup of Isuzu movers. Isuzu is participating in the 12th Motorshow International in a fanfare of prime transports, newest engine breakthroughs, modern gadgets and latest accessories.

Isuzu has for its theme "Passion to Precision" to life for this year's event. The theme embodies the rationale behind Isuzu's latest DAT (Diesel Automatic Turbo) technology, which merges fuel economy, driving comfort and superior engine power. "DAT is the precise answer to the desire of today's Filipino motorists," explains Katsuhiko Kato, IPC vice president for marketing and sales.

Isuzu's DAT technology makes ends meet, merging enhanced engine power and lesser emissions, driving comfort and unmatched fuel economy. "Taking customer needs into account, we are making the DAT available in all of our product lines," says Kato.

Isuzu has six display units for this year's fair. Taking the lead is the accessorized 4WD Trooper now being sold in the market. At the same time, viewers can get to see a sneak preview of the luxurious 4x2 Trooper model dressed up especially for the Motorshow.

The Isuzu booth is also hyping the newly launched Crosswind crossover vehicles. This year's show features two XTO automatic models—one with standard specs (available in the market already with freebies to be given out) and the other dressed solely for the Motorshow, giving it a new and upbeat look. Visitors will be first to see the remodeled Fuego 4x2 (now in the market) side by side with the 4WD Sporty Fuego pickup lifted up for display purpose.

This exhibition of first-class vehicles will be further complemented with a one-hour seminar on DAT technology that gives up-to-date info on Isuzu's engine modernism and its heap of benefits for today's motorists. Scheduled daily at 3-4 p.m. and 6-7 p.m., the seminar is open to the public free of charge.

Luxury cars make a comeback with new models

THE ECONOMIC slowdown on all international fronts may have taken the bite out of the high-end passenger market, but a new segment of younger buyers are looking at versatile lifestyle passenger vehicles with luxury brands.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, world car production from 1999 to 2000 has generally been stable with 35 million to 40 million units a year. Total world sales figures from 1990 to 1999 also depict very little change with Western Europe still the highest passenger car buyer at over 15 million. The North American market posted a 10-percent decline over the 1990s as saloon cars or sedans were upstaged by all-utility vehicles.

Another look

In 2000, however, Americans began taking another look at luxury cars and buying up over 650,000 units. Traditional luxury car sales soared 77 percent from 1996 to 2000, according to US motor industry observer Autodata Corp. In April 2001, US auto sales overall were getting a lift only from luxury brands setting record sales numbers. Some 54 model lines of luxury cars are slated for introduction in the US market alone this year.

The tactic lay in appealing to the lucrative baby boomers and young professionals itching for their first premium car buy. Give us the name, the shape, the size and the power, plus a slightly lower price tag and we will snap them up, this market says. Luxury brands have complied and the latest entrant seems the most promising.

FROM TOP (clockwise): X-type, S-type, XJ and XK8

Jaguar Cars set the introduction of its X-Type, fittingly named for generation X, in mid-2001. Orders in the Manila office were up as early as March despite the X-Type's scheduled arrival in September.

In the Philippines, despite the current economic and political crises, exclusive distributor Jaguar Cars successfully exceeded its 2000 year forecast by 10 percent, a respectable 40 percent increase in sales from 1999. The S-Type figured prominently in year 2000, capturing 87 percent of total sales last year.

First wave

"Jaguar Philippines will be bringing in initially the X-Type SE 2.5-liter models as its first wave of stock inventories. The introductory price is P2.75 million," says Wellington C. Soong, president of Jaguar Cars Inc. The X-Type also comes in a 3-liter model. Both possess powerful V6 engines.

"I am bullish about capturing 30 percent of the market in this class because of the brand popularity, its styling, exclusivity and elegance. Jaguar is an incomparable premium brand and this is the first time we are entering this class," Soong adds.

The X-Type is the first Jaguar compact sports sedan in 30 years and is expected to do even better than its S-Type predecessor. The S-Type was the luxury automaker's biggest selling model domestically and globally last year. In the Philippines, 41 of the 49 units sold in 2000 were S-Type units.

The Jaguar X-Type also promises to glow in comparison to the older lines. Its practical strengths lie in comprehensive safety and security features, generous spaces for passengers and luggage, all-wheel drive, newly developed electronic automatic transmission and one of the hardest bodyshells in the market today. Like its predecessors, it also carries the distinctive shape that is undeniably Jaguar.

Motorshow: A celebration of achievements

THE ISUZU Fuego and Crosswind. The recently launched Jaguar X-Type model. A chance to test-drive the latest models of local car assemblers. Car club meetings. Vintage and exotic cars driving through a race course. A showcase of various types of jeeps. Remote control races and static car model competition. A wide array of automotive products and services under one roof.

These are just some of the reasons car aficionados will be heading to the Motorshow International at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, until Sunday. The exhibit is considered as one of the industry events being awaited by automobile enthusiasts, car and accessories companies, service providers and other interested groups. Getting bigger and better with more sponsors, participants and a lot of spectators every year, Motorshow has laid claim to truly being the country's premier auto show.

Crowd drawer

Organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themepark Corp. (Petco), Motorshow International is now on its 12th year of drawing car aficionados and enthusiasts to this event described by Petco president Marisa Nallana as a "celebration of the automotive industry's achievements."

Apart from car assemblers and manufacturers, the event has also attracted dealers of brand-new cars, sports and multipurpose vehicles, motorcycle manufacturers and assemblers, truck and bus assemblers, automotive associations and other allied industries and services.

Newest stuff

The Motorshow prides itself as the ideal venue where people can find the newest stuff that will enhance their vehicles—from car care products, automotive parts and accessories to related technologies in the automotive and cycle sector. It is also the place where car clubs like the Mini Car Club, Volkswagen Car Club, Vintage Car Club and Mercedes-Benz Club gather to feature their collections for the Ultron Car Clubs Meet. Major car companies are also expected to showcase their latest models. For this year, Jaguar Philippines will be joining to introduce its newest model—the Jaguar X-Type.

During the exhibit, visitors will have the chance to come face to face with the Jaguar X-Type whose stunning beauty will definitely make men (and women alike) feel weak at the knees. Motorshow will also open the doors for Jaguar's tempting offer to X-Type buyers: the Jaguar Financial Services which makes the luxury car more affordable to its target market, the 25- to 35-year-old generation. For an initial payment of P1.5 million, a buyer can drive home a Jaguar X-Type and pay the remaining balance in about 18-24 months.

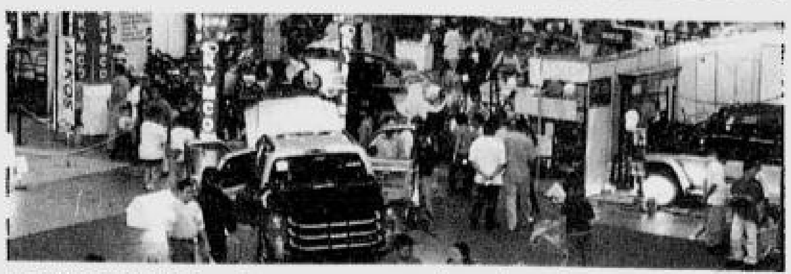
Exciting events

Petco has lined up some exciting events that are sure to draw visitors to the show. Set to take place on Sunday is the Blaze Exotic Cars Slalom, a showdown of all vintage, classic, contemporary, sports and exotic car owners who will drive their collection pieces for a time trial test through a race course at the open grounds of Boom na Boom parking. The car that finishes with the fastest time and least deductions wins the slalom. Special awards will be given to the Best Drive per class, Outstanding Club Delegation, Early Bird Award and the Longest Day Award for the Worst Driver of the Year.

Before the car clubs meet and slalom, another special event will be held Saturday that will showcase American-type jeeps such as Jeep Wranglers, Ministars, Renegades, CJ7, CJ5, M38s and MB's JR Hummers. Dubbed as the Jeep Jamboree or Jeep Jam by MD Jeepstar, this event will feature a four-wheel-drive obstacle race covering 600 meters of road course at the Boom na Boom parking area. The jeep driver who has the minimum time finish and net deduction shall be declared as the winner. Special awards will also be given to the Best in Show, Best Interior, Best Paint, Best Setup and the Most Unique Jeep.

Expected to amaze the crowd is the display of vintage and classic cars dating back to the '30s that has been restored for "showroom" condition. The Annual Motorshow Best in Show competition will also showcase contemporary cars (European/Japanese made) that has been modified with accessories installed on the body and car engine. The Motorshow awarding ceremonies will be held Sunday at 5 p.m.

There will also be product launches such as Sara Lee Philippines' new car freshener brand and demonstrations on unique engine treatment and turbo stormy air fuel mixture by Bizcom International Corp. Oriental and Motolite Corp. also will give away the "Pangmatagalan Award" to the oldest car at the show.



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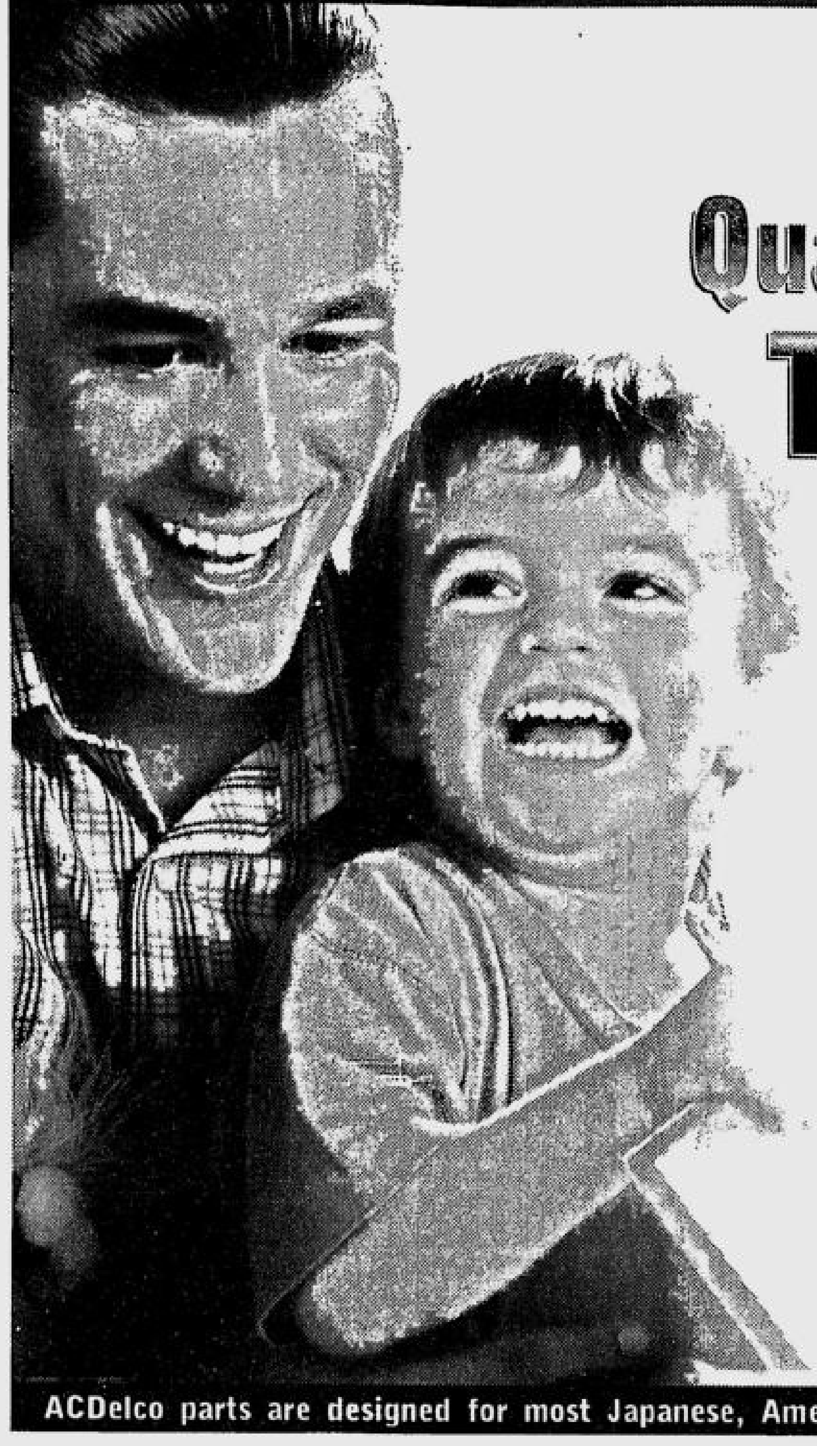

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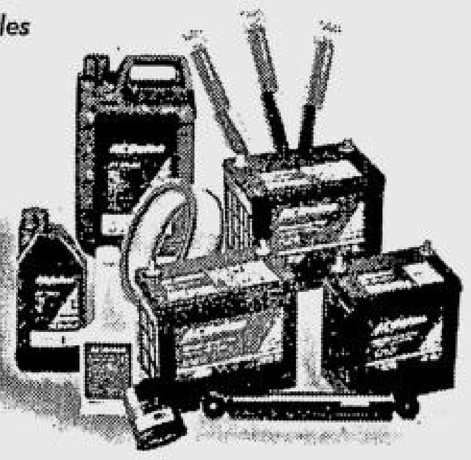

GRAND FEATURES. GRAND CHOICES.*
GRAND DEAL.

Power mode selector switch
Located to the left of the gear selector, this switch allows the driver to shift in either the "P" or the "N" mode. In the "P" mode, the transmission will delay its shift points. This allows the vehicle to rev higher, and downshift quicker when the accelerator is depressed. Under "N", the transmission will shift at the regular shift points, usually about 3,000 rpm, depending on the model. This setting maximizes fuel economy.

Micron air filter
Filters out dust, dirt, and pollen from the ventilation system, helping keep the cabin air fresh.

Direct Ignition system
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V5, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines feature coil over plug technology, which reduces maintenace costs by eliminating the need for a distributor cap and ignition wires. Direct ignition helps increase engine efficiency and performance.

Strut tower brace
A thick steel bar over the engine acts as a body stiffener by increasing torsional rigidity and reducing body flex.

Shift-on-the fly four-wheel Drive
A shift-on-the-fly system with two speed transfer case allows drivers to shift between 2wd high and 4wd high at any speed up to 60 mph while travelling in a straight line. There is no need to stop, reverse, or lock hubs.

Multi-reflector headlamps
Besides being visually appealing, these headlamps produce a cleaner, more controlled beam for better night vision.

Liquid filled motor mounts
Hydraulically tuned to help cancel the noise and vibrations produced by the engine, these motor mounts help ensure a quieter cabin.

Chassis to body mounts.
Numerous energy absorbing rubber chassis to body mounts are placed on top of the ladder box frame, and below the body. They help keep road noise and vibration out of the passenger cabin, ensuring a quiet, smooth ride.

Full frame with crumple zones
The full ladder frame with boxed rails is made of high tensile steel, and features seven cross-members for additional support and rigidity. This gives the entire Vitara line a strong foundation for vehicle.

Two-speed tranfer case
Allows the driver to select 4wd low, used for serious off road driving, such as ascending or descending steep hills, sand, or mud.

Timing chain
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V5, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines are designed with dual overhead cams and a two-stage timing chain for better performance. The timing chain, developed from Suzuki motorcycle technology, is self lubricating, self adjusting, and requires no maintenance.

Fashionable and sporty

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Would drug tests curb drug-related accidents?

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

ART director Lilet (not her real name) is a regular user of mari juana. Though she avoids driving while smoking pot, she has, nevertheless, experienced driving under the influence of marijuana.

She said she knows a lot of fellow marijuana smokers who also drive, but she swears they tend to be more cautious, less aggressive, and even more relaxed on the road. Who wouldn't be driving slower, she asks, when you're in a dreamlike state?

She said, however, that with shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) it's a different story. With shabu, the adrenaline is pumped up. These kinds of motorists are the ones who would most likely pick a fight with other drivers.

JR, another art director, said that with the help of shabu, he was able to drive nonstop from Manila to Baguio, and then to Banawe to join a photo shoot for a client.

"I was able to go abroad for employment undetected during a drug test. So what's the fuss all about?"

We don't have an idea how many Lilets or JRs there are on the road, but 6.8 million licensed drivers are about to undergo drug tests once they renew their licenses. And we await with bated breaths the results of these tests.

Implementing rules

The Department of Transportation and Communications declared on Sunday in major dailies its implementing rules and regulations for drug tests aimed at promoting safe and efficient transportation and curbing alcohol- or drug-related vehicular accidents.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The IRR cited controlled substances that are to be closely watched, principally shabu and *Cannabinoids* (marijuana).

The next question after the results come out is that would these drug tests ultimately result in the prevention of drug-related motoring accidents?

Overkill

Jacinto Mantaring Jr., Automobile Association of the Philippines director, said that he hasn't seen the implementing rules and regulations yet and that the AAP doesn't have an official statement, but based on his personal opinion, he said that a drug abuser would not incriminate himself. He added that the enforcers should require bus drivers or public utility vehicle drivers to undergo mandatory testing, instead of non-professional license holders.

"I think it's overkill and it would be another regulation subject to graft and corruption."

Lilet doubts if the drug tests would actually work. If simple driving eligibility exams could be rigged, she analyzed, what more of drug tests? She said she witnessed how LTO officials in Las Piñas were providing answers to examinees who gave grease money. The mandatory drug tests, she said, would also be more costly and complicated.

Without drug tests, the cost of getting a license is P180 for nonprofessional, P240 for professional, and P75 for a student permit. A drug test could cost P600 and would be paid separately to accredited drug testing laboratories. Motorists, however, fear that the waiting time to get the license could double.

Applicants can even contest the lab's findings if the results are found positive for substance abuse. Applicants can go to a lab of their choice and get a "second opinion."

Classification

The implementing guidelines define the classification of drug testing labs. Class A labs are capable of conducting screening and confirmatory tests as well as quantitative examinations of specimens. Class B labs can perform screening and confirmatory tests, and Class C labs can conduct screening tests.

The participants to the LTO drug-testing program shall establish drug screening centers nationwide. The guidelines also include far-flung areas accredited on a case-to-case basis.

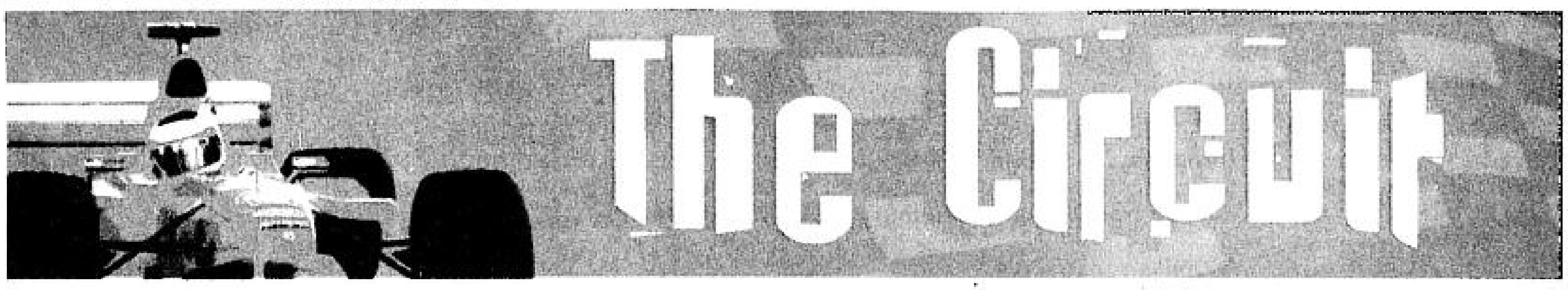
The proponents have started the first phase, the inspection of laboratories to ensure these are equipped.

No record

The Traffic Management Group has no record of drug-related accidents. The reported causes of accidents list down driver error, drunk driving, overspeeding, hit and run, bad overtaking, overloading, bad turning, using cellphones and mechanical defects. Driver error, however, is listed as the leading cause of accidents, with 8,338 cases in 2000, 7,055 cases in 1999 and 5,814 cases in 1998.

LTO Traffic Safety education chief Daisy Jacobo said that on the positive side, traffic enforcers could be a crucial force in the campaign against drug abuse, thereby easing much of the pressure from anti-drug enforcers.

Asked if drug abusers would force themselves to abstain from taking drugs just to get a driver's license, Jacobo replied, "Nobody would be fool enough to incriminate himself."



The Circuit

Shell's Fuel and Lubricants- A Winner's Edge

As Ferrari's technical partner in world championship grand prix racing, Shell's work never ceases. The relationship between the two companies is more than a traditional customer and supplier bond. During the five years that Shell and Ferrari have been working together, their relationship has become one of the closest in the F1 paddock, moving beyond motorsport into the core of each other's businesses. Each hand-built Ferrari model to leave the Maranello factory has an initial fill of Shell fuel, and its engine is lubricated by Shell Helix Ultra. Equally, Shell's development work with Ferrari within the hotbed of Formula One means new products for the motorist which are tested in extreme conditions and brought to market very quickly.

Shell's role in the Scuderia Ferrari is to provide the highest quality fuel and lubricants to the team and subsequently to the customer, but what exactly are the characteristics of a winning lubricant?

Simon Dunning, Senior Engineer with Shell's Automotive Lubricants division explains: "The primary role of a lubricant is to protect the engine from wear; there's no point having the fastest engine if it won't last the distance. Secondly, whilst lubricating the engine, it must absorb as little energy as possible from the moving parts. Finally, the lubricant has to deal with the high temperatures in the engine and disperse them as efficiently as possible."

Shell remains one of the most committed fuel and lubricants partners in Formula One. Their successful relationship with the current Formula One World Champions benefits millions of fuel and lubricant buyers worldwide, who can rest assured that the products they see on the shelves have been designed, developed and tested under extreme conditions by the best team in the world.

Marave Triumps at 10TH AF3

Shell sponsored Pepon Marave clinched his F3 maiden victory as he ruled the 10th round of the Asian Formula 3 Challenge last Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Marave clocked 32 minutes and 38.623 seconds, and posted the fastest time at the 4th lap with 1:13:454.

After finishing a close 2nd in the earlier race, Marave's team made some technical adjustments with the tires which overheated apparently due to too much air. Pepon, with his determination and grit, then put up a magnificent performance at the 10th race to take the checkered flag, a full 12.357 seconds ahead of 2nd placer Philip Alvendia.

"I am happy for the team, and I thank them and Shell for their total support.", Marave said after his accomplishment. "And of course, my engine would not have withstood all that stress without Shell Helix." (W.I.N.)

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DRIVER STANDINGS	
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BARRICHELLO	54
R. SCHUMACHER	48
HAKKINEN	34
MONTOYA	25

TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	167
MCLAREN	95
WILLIAMS	73
SAUBER	21
JORDAN	19
BAR	17

LOCAL RACING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE
DRAG RACING QUARTERMILE 2001 Harbor Center	Oct 6
SHELL SLALOMS SERIES Festival Mall, Alabang	Oct 7
FORMULA RACES BRC-Formula Speedway	Oct 21
DRAG RACING QUARTERMILE 2001 Harbor Center	Nov 3

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Car rally set Nov. 30

BACK in the '70s, legendary motor sports icons Pocholo Ramirez, Dante Silverio and Tony Mapa competed in Tulip rallies, which adopted a local moniker, the Sampaguita Rallies. Unlike modern car rallies that put emphasis on speed, the Sampaguita Rally is an "on-time, all the time rally" that challenges the driving team's accuracy, safe driving, navigational skills and time management.

Now after more than two decades of hiatus in the local circuit, the Sampaguita Rally is making a comeback. Inspired by the success of the recently held Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita Rally, the television show "Motoring Today" has announced that it will hold the first-ever Shell Helix-Motoring Today Corporate Motorsports Challenge.

"I have long wanted to start this motorsports event that will allow motorists to test and improve their driving skills through a coordinated and world-standard program," said Butch Gamboa, producer and host of the weekly television program.

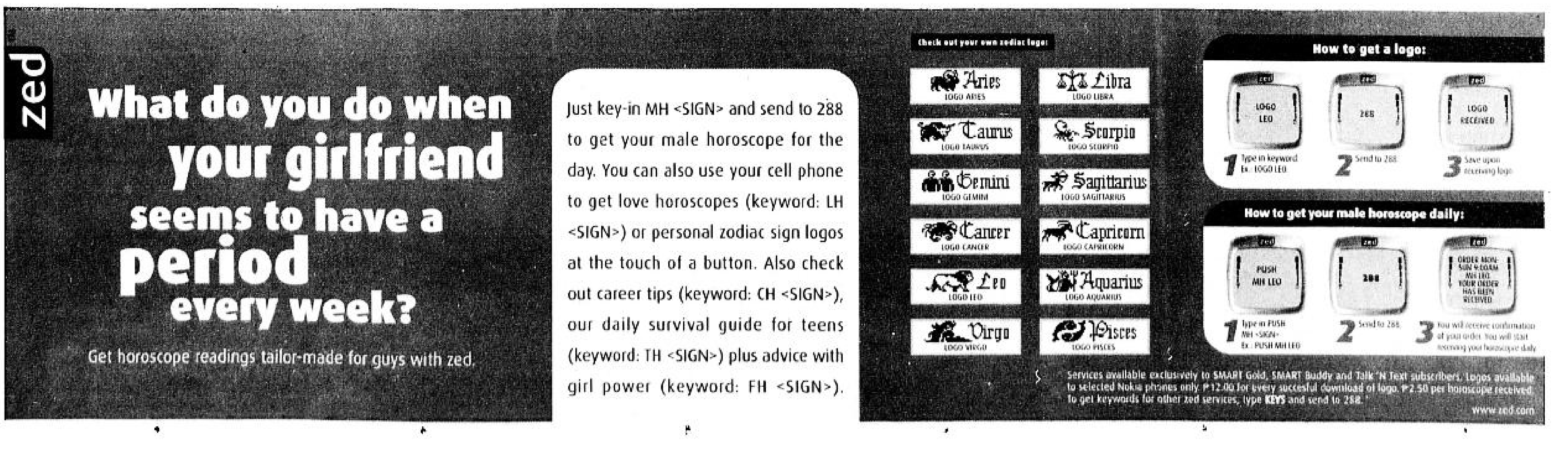
The car rally will be held on Nov. 30, with flag-off at the Shell gas station on the South Expressway. It is open to all motorists but the organizers encourage that companies field their own teams to maintain the corporate challenge.

Each team will be composed of three people—a driver, a navigator and a timekeeper. The objective of the competition is to travel from the start to the finish over a specified route maintaining the given vehicular speeds of the different road sections. There will be undisclosed time control points where competitors will be timed to the second. Every one-second deviation of the check-in times at the control points means one demerit.

Several companies have confirmed their participation to the event. Said Gamboa: "In just two days, we have filled 28 slots and expect more participants in the coming days. However, we are only limiting the number of entries for a more dynamic competition."

The Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly PMA) has been tapped to oversee the mechanics and implement the rules of the contest. Motoring Today has also tapped A.P. Mojica and Associates to manage the event.

Those wishing to participate or field an entry or entries may call up Allen Mojica or AJ Garcia at 543-4064, 09185091377, 724-3939 and 724-3954.



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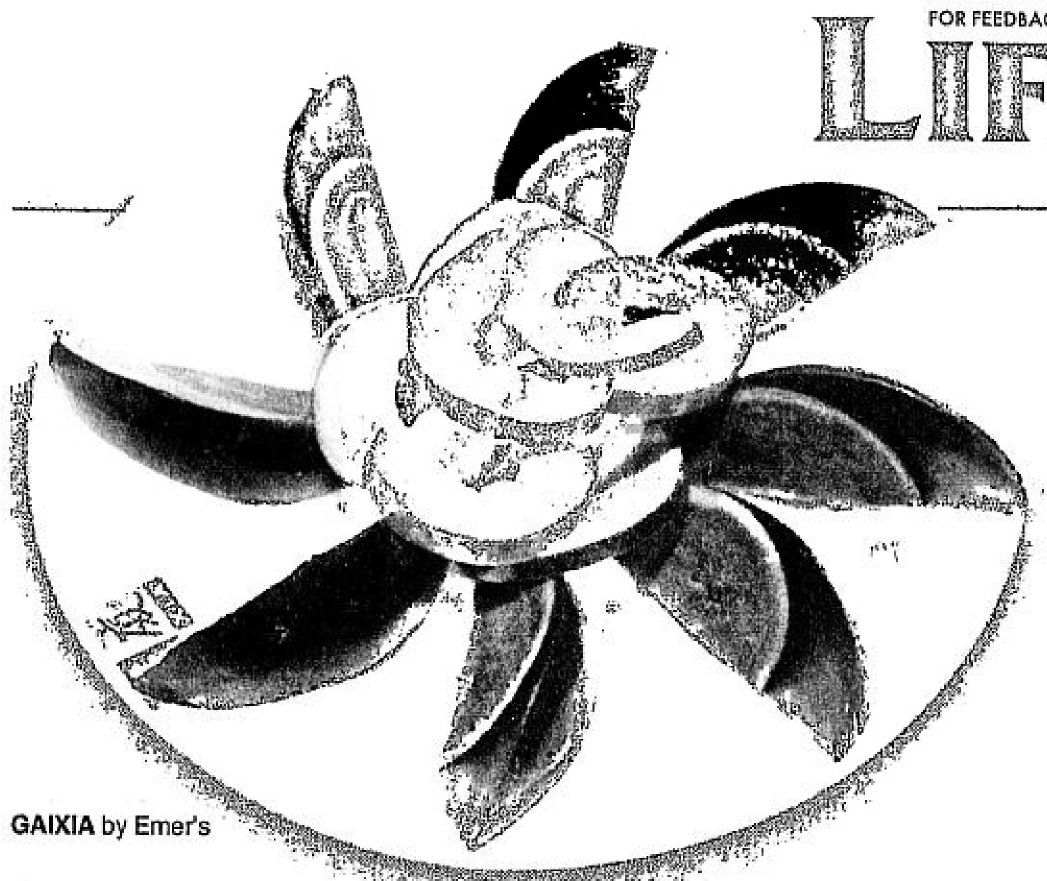
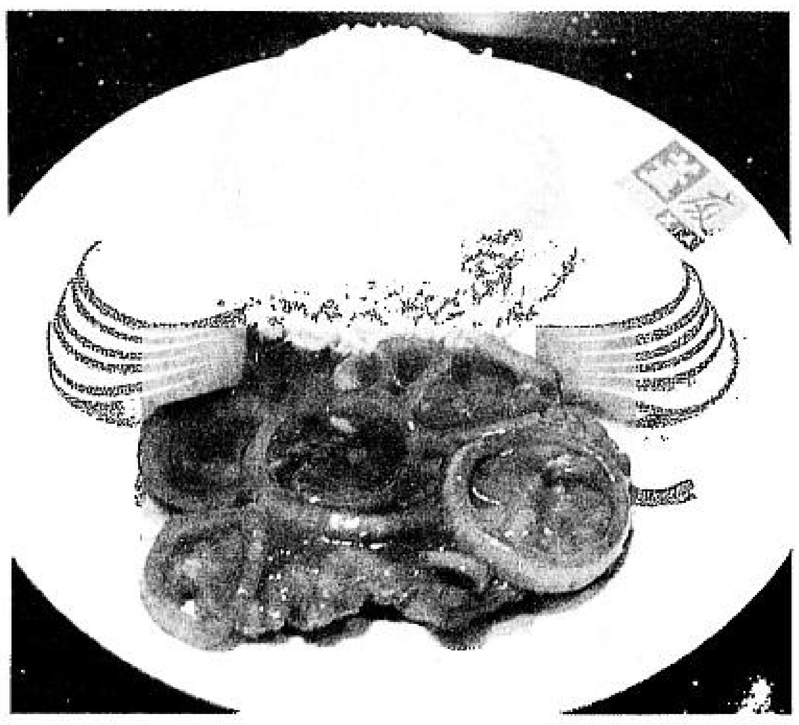


GAIXIA by Emer's

With its sci-fi charm, the newest food court in Makati has been inspired by San Francisco's futuristic entertainment centers, and blends with the dynamic design of LKG Tower

Odyssey to many flavors



GAIXIA'S Pork Golden Steak

TEXT BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

FOOD Odyssey is a rollicking agglomeration of food stalls in an office building few may have heard of. But Annabella and Tom Wisniewski, who have put Food Park and Marketplace on many a diner's radar, do not toil in obscurity. Consider the successes of Food Park at The Enterprise in Makati and Marketplace in Manila.

A fizzy, table-hopping, cocktail party atmosphere animates Food Odyssey, Makati's hotter-than-thou food court of the moment. Many visit the place to feel the buzz at this informal spot. The aroma emanating from the 12 food shops make people-watching even more entertaining.

ODYSSEY/ p.C6

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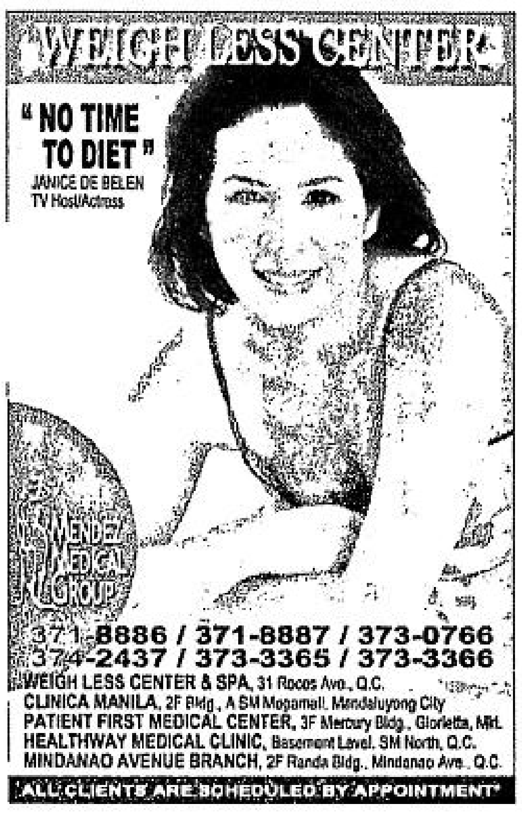

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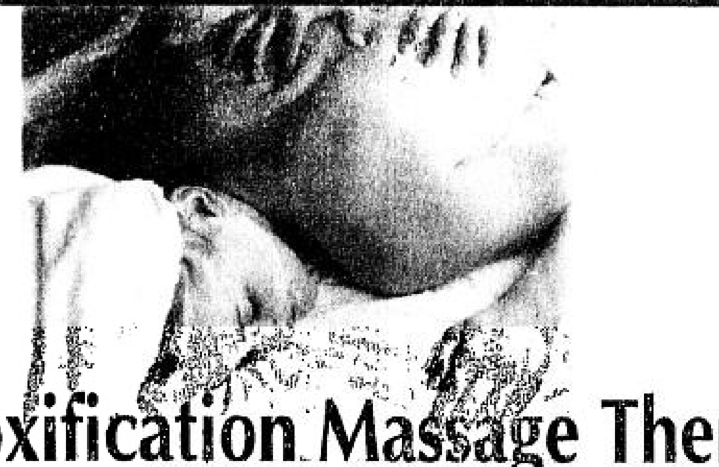
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SINIGANG na bangus sa santol

The meal, orchestrated by Ernest Santiago, seemed to flow on forever and into memory, yet without allowing anyone to feel heavy—just pleasured

A feast to remember

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

SOME days come to us as gifts, and should be fully savored. The monsoon rains had paused, and from Makati it took only 90 minutes to reach Pagsanjan on quite good roads. Traffic was light, except in College, Laguna, The roadsides had vendors offering *suso* in plastic bags, *lanzones* and other fruits. Soon we entered the old arch and almost immediately found to our right Gallery 83, Ernest Santiago's restaurant and home.

SMOKED *tulingan, inihaw na talong, nilagang saging*

Many remember Ernest as the creative fashion designer who conceived Coco Banana, which changed, then set the disco scene of the '60s. Well, Ernest tired of all that, and moved to Pagsanjan for peace, serenity and greenery ("I am inspired by the shapes of leaves..."). He is not a native, being from Bulacan, but in this quiet town of old houses and the rapids, he found home.

On land right along main street, he designed a home and a lifestyle. Rooms meander into each other, the garden wandering alongside—unplanned, Ernest assures us, but guided by the growth of plants, the light from the sky, and serendipity. *Camia* was in season, white and fragrant; the creeping mosses stood their ground against towering trees and blooming jade vines. Light streamed through the skylights of the domed thatched roof—the same kind of lighting that enabled the *bordadoras* of Lumban to embroider *jusi* and *piña* so delicately. Some chairs, tables and accessories are of Ernest's design; some are history's.

Friends came so often, and Ernest so loved to feed them, that they finally suggested that he open a coffee shop. A full-blown restaurant it has become (Gallery 83 café, marked by a life-size figure of a lady at 83 Rizal St., Pagsanjan; tel. (049) 808-4967; e-mail ernest_santiago@hotmail.com), featuring native dishes as reinvented and ignited by Ernest's instincts and imagination.

On a bright tablecloth printed with hibiscus flowers (with a matching *gumamela* at each place setting), we had a feast to remember.

Free flowing

First, a salad of just-picked *pako*, topped with *singkamas* julienne and *kesong puti* from Lumban, on a blue-and-white Chinese platter. The dressing: olive oil, garlic and other spells. Then an unbelievable dish of *ubod* (coconut pith or heart) gently boiled, soft as silk, and served with *tahure* sparked with *tausi*.

The *sinigang* was built around *bangus* from the locale, and *santol* pulp and seeds—because it was *santol* season. Onto the table were drifting as well Ernest's invented relishes: *bongang santol/sagota*, *achara* of *nata de coco*, of *ampalaya* and apples. The crunchiness of the latter and the complete absence of *ampalaya* bitterness were not brought about by salting and squeezing, but by slow leeching by vinegar.

ERNEST Santiago in Pagsanjan

The *ginataang manok sa mustasa* was pale green and excellently spiced, an offering of textural contrast.

The dish that made mouths gape in amazement and appreciation, water in anticipation and in delight, and eyes widen in awe, was the smoked *tulingan*, which Ernest and his staff make in large batches in *kawali*, then preserve to serve as is, or to use in other dishes (e.g. pasta). "As is" in this case means, however, being accompanied by boiled *saba* banana sections and grilled eggplants at the peak of charcoal taste—and by Ernest's suggestion that one fine-tune the dish as one wills—with the relishes, even making each bite a different pleasure.

Tulingan (*Auxis Thazard*) is big-eyed tuna. A folk belief declares it poisonous unless cooked right. Ernest's long cooking on a wood fire that produces an enveloping smoky taste is obviously the right way. It is difficult to describe or compare, not being like *tinapa*, because it is finely yet densely textured—like tuna, perhaps, which we don't usually smoke.

Dessert was simple because Ernest decreed just a taste of sweetness after that opulent procession of simple traditional dishes. Just sweetened *camote* (the *malagkit* local variety) and *santol*—not boiled in syrup; rather caramelized into sweetness.

Superb *barako* coffee—again given a secret touch of genius by Ernest—ended a meal that seemed to flow on forever and into memory, yet without allowing anyone to feel heavy—just pleasured.

Ernest has free-flowing plans coming into fruition painlessly: more dishes, furniture and gardens: tourism for Pagsanjan and six neighboring towns supported and conducted by the people with the help of civil authority, and more. It is not just food, he explains; not even attracting tourists to contribute to the towns' revenues. Rather, it is lifestyle, the Filipino way, our identity, the life we love.

What a day it was indeed: what a difference it made in the stream of our days.

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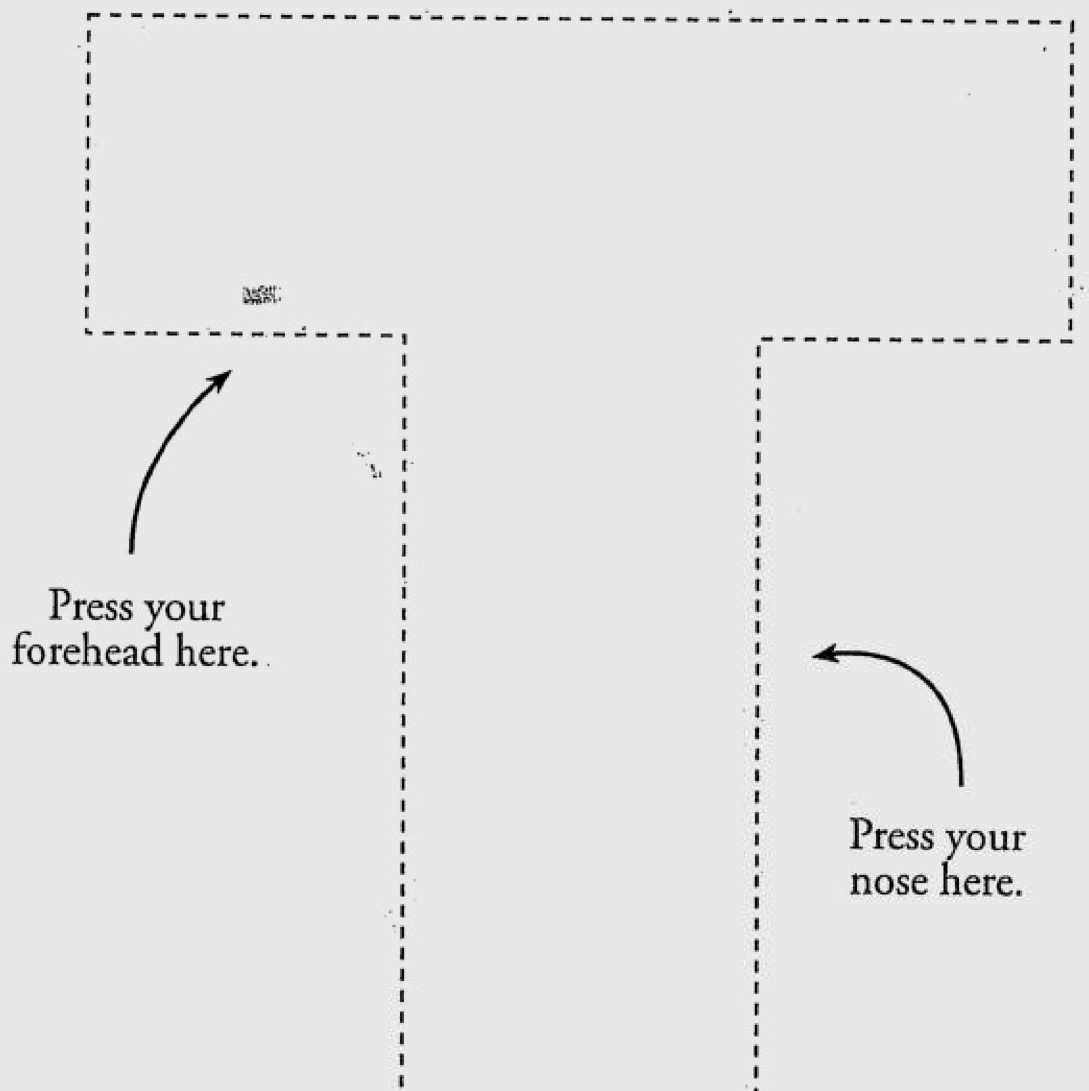
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AA-01-01-PI1

Canon's new office equipment to revolutionize business processes

SATOSHI Yahata, Canon Marketing Philippines Inc. president and chief executive officer, knows that all over the world IT has become the norm and technology has revolutionized the way people do things.

He also admits that in terms of technological advancement, the Philippines and many of its Asian neighbors are in the other side of the "digital divide."

"Canon cannot ignore the fact that we have to advance in technology also. We have to develop our current product lines. We can put only the analog products to countries which are currently using it. But we cannot do that. We have to provide the ease and convenience of technology to every corner of the world, just like we wanted to be of help to the Philippines to advance in technology, not only in equipment but as well as with its people," relates Yahata.

The company's thrust in business may very well prove its point. Canon, which started its business in the country only in 1996, has grown seven fold. Canon's annual growth is at 20 percent and for this year, as the company celebrates its fifth year in the country, it's aiming to become a billion-peso company.

Canon has bright prospects for the market despite the country's not-so-bright economic conditions. As the trend goes from analog to digital, the company is introducing new product lines to complement its business strategy here.

"Canon is one of the most advanced companies in terms of digital equipment in the office. With the launching of these new products, we hope that these business equipment would help end-users improve their productivity and also change their business processes. We also hope that eventually these would reduce their operational costs," Yahata explains.

Yahata adds that Canon products and its technology help companies during these hard times.

"We expect operational cost reduction. But come to think of it, with these kinds of products which promotes high productivity, which results ultimately in cost reduction and savings in time, it helps companies to reduce its production costs," Yahata says.

With the launching of the new products, the company is targeting the existing and new markets.

"For the existing market, we can introduce these advanced digital products for them to switch from analog to digital, which eventually would help them reduce operational costs. The new market is a very big potential market wherein we can work with software vendors or other business partners. This is our challenge," says Yahata.

The company sees itself as a solutions provider in the office rather than just being involved with business equipment.

Canon now launches its new product lines.

ImageRunner Series

Canon introduces its second-generation copiers—the IR or the ImageRunner series, the first generation copiers being the GP series introduced three years ago.

"The IR series offers full-range digital-multifunction workgroup solution from the low- to the high-end market. The IR 5000/6000 is Canon's first high-end entry in the market. It doesn't have a counterpart in the GP series.. The IR 2200 is the low-end range, while the IR 3300 is the mid-range. This makes Canon have full coverage of the market," explains Bong Serevo Jr., Canon's assistant vice president for strategic information systems division.

Serevo says that the design of the copier is more integrated and multi-functional.

"If you print and not do anything else (with the GP series), the other parts of the resources are not being used. If you're only copying and not printing, the printing part of the resources aren't being used. With IR, it's all in there. It's just a matter of sharing the resources. If you're not faxing and you're printing, all of the resources will go into printing. But if you're printing and faxing at the same time, all of the resources will be shared," relates Serevo.

"The IR Series makes for a wise investment. You have complete value for your money," Serevo shares.

He says that as a digital copier it only has about 200 mechanical parts compared to a conventional analog copier, which has over 2,000 mechanical parts. Less number of parts means less maintenance and service time.

The ImageRunner 5000/6000 Series is a total digital, multifunction imaging system combining the functions of copying, printing and scanning. It simplifies job operation, besides producing the highest image quality, network integration, and finishing capabilities. The IR 5000/6000 delivers at a speed of 50/60-pages per minute printing, copying or scanning.

> What's more startling with the BJ-W9000 printer is its speed. It could create a 36" x 48" poster in fast mode in only seven minutes. And with its Microfine Droplet Technology, the large-size poster could be printed in 6-color (CMYK + Photo Cyan + Photo Magenta) and in 1,200 x 600 dpi resolution

The IR can support up to 100 mailboxes, it has a copy and scanning resolution of 600 dpi x 600 dpi and a printing resolution of 600 dpi x 600 dpi and 2400 dpi x 600 dpi. Mailboxes can be used to accept scanned and printed data, allowing users to easily combine paper and electronic information. It also allows users to store up to five copy jobs in memory while current copy or print jobs are being processed.

The IR is also designed specifically to fill the needs of large workgroups and corporate departments. It comes in two basic configurations—the ImageRunner 5000/6000 comes as a stand-alone copier supporting basic copy functions as well as scanning of hard-copy originals into its Internal Image Server Mailbox. It is fully upgradable to support network printing and network scanning. The ImageRunner 5000N/6000N comes as a fully networked copier and printer complete with local and network scanning capabilities.

The ImageRunner also has the ability to handle A6 to A3 sizes and offers extensive finishing capabilities, which include multi-position stapling, 2-hole punching, and saddle-stitched booklet-making on demand.

CANON'S/ C4

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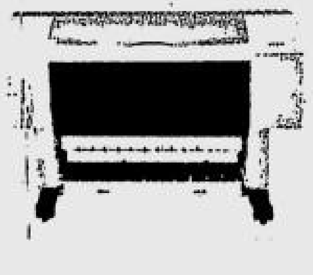

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Canon

Canon's new office equipment . . .

(From page C3)

> 'We have to provide the ease and convenience of technology to every corner of the world, just like we wanted to be of help to the Philippines to advance in technology, not only in equipment but as well as with its people'
>
> — *Yahata*

The ImageRunner 3300 Series and the ImageRunner 2200 Series offer 33-page-per-minute and 22-page-per-minute speeds, respectively, on copying, printing, scanning and faxing tasks. Both series can likewise support 100 mailboxes, have actual resolutions of 600 dpi x 600 dpi and an interpolated resolution of 1200 dpi x 600 dpi for copying and 2400 dpi x 600 dpi for printing.

These have print driver software designed with an easy-to-use user-interface which displays a dynamic image of the device, indicating installed hardware options, paper size and paper levels.

It has the ability to save frequently used settings, annotate documents and watermarks, and has extensive document-finishing and booklet-making features. It also has mail box printing, page composer and secured print. In mailbox printing, users can send print data to personal mailboxes for integration with other stored images, thereby creating new compound documents.

BJ-W9000 Large-Format Printer

"The BJ-W9000 is Canon's entry to the large-format printer market. It can handle media up to 43 inches in width, which makes it perfect for posters or large POPs," says Jopie Francisco, head of Canon's large-format printer sales.

What's more startling with this printer is its speed. The BJ-W9000 could create a 36" x 48" poster in fast mode in only seven minutes. And with its Microfine Droplet Technology, the large-size poster could be printed in 6-color (CMYK + Photo Cyan + Photo Magenta) and in 1,200 x 600 dpi resolution.

"It also has a two-stage automatic feeder system which holds two rolls of media. This setup allows uninterrupted printing and quick switching between rolls, aside from a window in the cassette which allows checking how much media is left," Francisco says.

He further explains that the BJ-W9000 can handle paper of various sizes, from the standard single sheets up to B0 size, and with roll media it can print banners up to 143 feet.

The following media are also supported by Canon's BJ-W9000: heavy-weight coated paper, glossy paper, semi-glossy paper, glossy film, backprint film, adhesive vinyl, glossy canvass, ultra clear film with side stripes, glossy opaque film, premium matt coated paper, backprint floor graphic, satin glossy paper and opaque paper.

The BJ-W9000 also has a large capacity ink system using 650-ml ink bottles which could last for up to 200 A0 size normal prints. The ink tubing system is connected to a temporary ink bottle. This promotes high productivity because it replaces empty ink bottles without interrupting the current printing job. Its ink-level detection system makes sure than an ample supply of ink flows continuously.

Powershot G2 Digital Camera

The Canon Powershot G2 digital camera is a high-performance camera for advanced and professional users. It has a 4-megapixel CCD and equipped with a fast, ultra-sharp f/2.0-2.5, 3X Optical Zoom Lens.

The Powershot G2 has every other feature of the Powershot G1, but with new functions. The list includes: higher resolution, better image quality, faster signal processing, lower power consumption, more focusing points, improved manual focusing, faster continuous shooting, more shooting modes and metering patterns, additional playback options and accessory compatibility, and direct print capabilities with the Canon CP-10 printer.

The G2 is equipped with a 1/1.8-inch, 4.0 megapixel CCD sensor for high-resolution images up to 2272 x 1704 pixels. The camera also offers three additional resolution settings of 1600 x 1200, 1024 x 768 and 640 x 480.

The camera also provides users with a selection of 13 image quality settings including three JPEG compression modes (Superfine, Fine and Normal) at any resolution. It also features Canon exclusive RAW mode for maximum control over image attributes. In addition, the G2 cuts camera operations into half, at the same time reducing power consumption also into half.

The G2 incorporates a three-point autofocus system, which ensures perfectly focused images and manual focus settings. It also offers a high-speed continuous mode, which allows pictures to be continuously shot even faster at 2.5 frames per second for up to 5 frames in large/fine mode.

A wide range of 13 exposure modes is also provided. This is divided into the Image Zone and the Creative Zone.

The G2 is also capable of displaying a histogram of the photo image on the LCD monitor. The histogram is a graph with the horizontal axis representing "brightness" and the vertical axis depicting the cumulative number of pixels that have that brightness. The histogram allows users to check the overall exposure of each photo.

The camera also offers a Direct Print mode that enables users to print hard-copy images with or without cropping using the Canon CP-10 dye sublimation printer. It is also user-friendly and provides even greater creative flexibility with its optional lens converters and adapters.

Sales promos for COMDDAP Expo 2001

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- Product bundling

BJC Series – Free Bean Bag for every purchase of any BJC Printer

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Original price: P10,345
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CC-90	P500	TX1210HI	P675
CC-100	P400	WS1210Hi	P675
ZX-300	P370		
F502	P475	**Buy-1Take-2**	
CC810 (Blue)	P635	LC210Hi	P175
CC810 (Pink)	P635	KC20	P295

SPECIAL PRODUCTS

- Projectors – Free 50" x 50" Tri-pod Screen for every purchase of a Canon projector
- BJW 3050/3000 Cad Printer – Free Canon high resolution paper

FAX

- L250 – Fax Forward Promo

For every purchase of Canon L-250 fax machine, customer can choose among the 3 choices as a freebie: microwave oven, water dispenser, refrigerator

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- CLC 900 – less 26%

IMS

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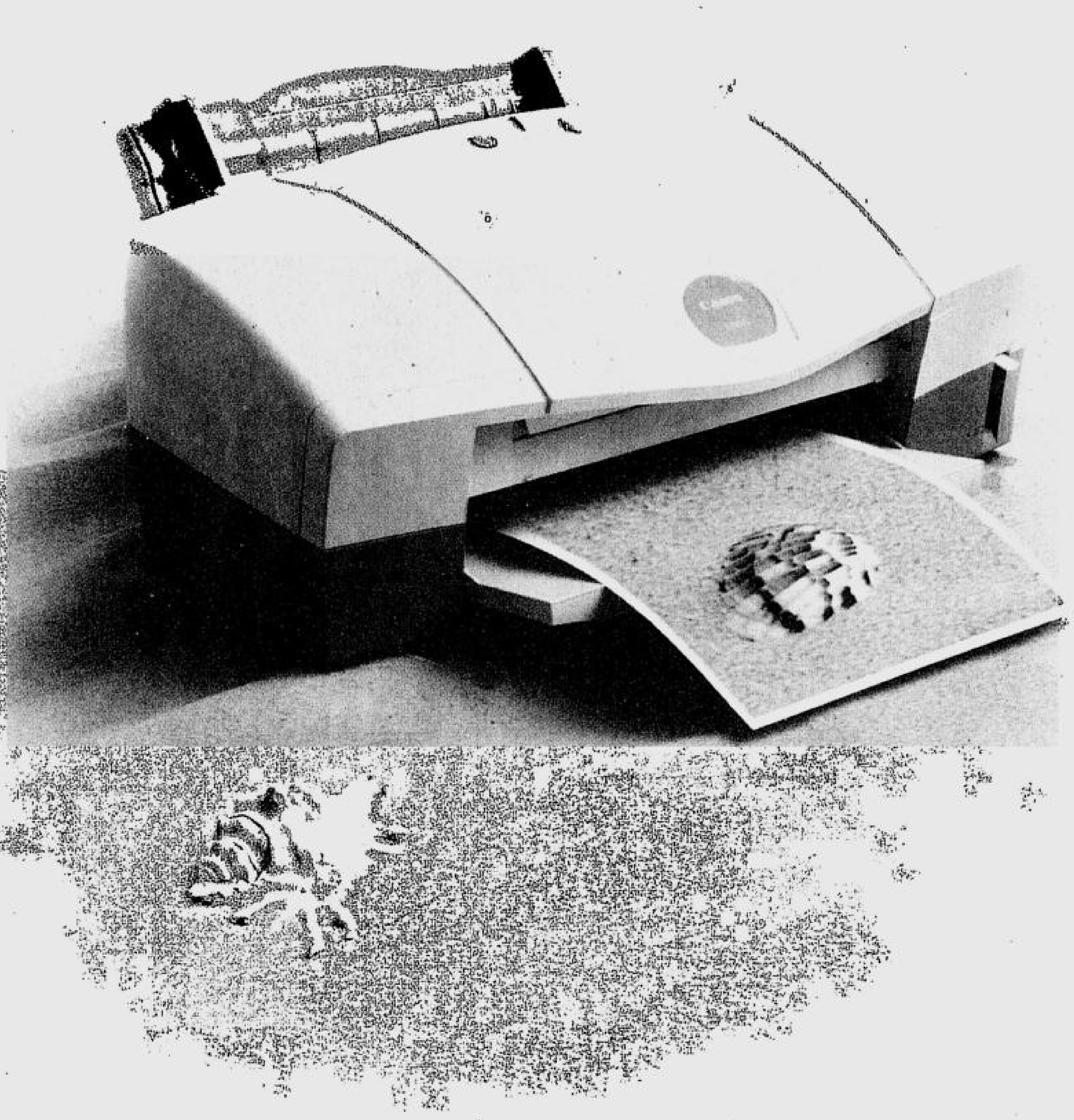

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THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

LAST Sunday I attended my first fashion show, Rajo Laurel's 2001 collection at the NBC Tent. Upon receiving the invitation I meticulously meditated and weighed the pros and cons of whether or not to go and ogle 6-ft-tall women parading about in beautiful and translucent clothing, and so wrenching was the decision that it took me an entire three-quarters of a second to reach it. So I invited a friend and went, and we found ourselves in a sea of high fashion. I suddenly felt very shabby for the lack of a polka-dot shirt, leopard-print cape, or even at the very least a crepe flower on my lapel. I'm almost sure someone mistook me for a waiter and asked me for a Diet Coke. We hurriedly whisked ourselves into the anonymity of the audience bleachers. A few minutes later, the lights dimmed and the show began.

I enjoyed myself thoroughly, and as I watched the models, including Nausika, who had, before her blossoming, taught me the little I know of Ancient Greek, strut down the catwalk under the glare of the lights, and absorbed the magic of the feast, I wondered: was my enjoyment of the show the sensual enjoyment of visual artistry (vivid colors, bright lights, sounds, the imagined feel of the crenellations, etc.); or was there a sexual element to it?.Was I actually responding to this carnival of faces, colors, cloths, beads, feathers, the way I would respond to a piece of mangled iron and wavy shards of glass on a pedestal titled "Creation and Destruction II: Mixed Media" in a gallery, or was I simply giving an artistic justification to a sexual gratification akin to that which I might receive from a parade of strip teasers? This is the central question of this column, and I shall now underscore this by typing on my laptop, lying with my stomach down on the bed, smoking a cigarette and having the camera do a close-up of the sentence being tapped out as I read it out loud as a voice-over. Cut to various interviews, etc.

> What couture and gastronomy have done is to elevate what is crude and necessary into a degree of refinement where we can talk of artistry, creativity, self-expression and various other lofty abstractions

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Basic needs

The link between couture and gastronomy is not an arbitrary one. These two terms are basically fancy words for clothing and food, which are what sociologists call "temporal imperatives"; they are the two things most essential to life. Even those who posit that cave paintings and ape-men jumping up and down to the sound of two rocks being clapped together constitute art, music and dance in their most primitive forms, would find it difficult to argue with the simple fact that people, in order to stay alive, must put food in their mouths and will cover their genitals with anything opaque that they can find in the vicinity.

What couture and gastronomy have done is to elevate what is crude and necessary into a degree of refinement where we can talk of artistry, creativity, self-expression and various other lofty abstractions usually reserved for attribution to sonnets, canvasses and piano concertos. Another point to note is that having beautiful clothes, interesting furniture and eating at haute cuisine restaurants is considered excess, luxury or indulgence. But a person with a comparably limited spending power who lives in a hovel but fills it with books, the art lover who eats instant noodles to save up for a Malang original (or is that a contradiction in terms?), or the connoisseur who gets into hock in order to attain seventh row center tickets when the Russian ballet is in town, is considered noble: Oh, the genteel poverty of the intelligentsia! But let them catch one glimpse of the likes of a Lesage throw and you're a spendthrift and a wastrel, even if it is something for which you've saved up at the expense of much else, or are evidently passionate about. I fly coach, wear shirts with holes, drive a wreck of a car, use the clock on my mobile phone as a watch; but in Paris I stay at the Ritz and have dinner at Le Grand Vefour. Somehow, though, it makes perfect sense to me.

Like music or abstract art, food and fashion are (with few exceptions) nonrepresentational; i.e., it would be difficult to use a dress or a piece of lamb shoulder to express one's sentiments about global terrorism and throw in (using accessories, or perhaps a parsley garnish) a sobering reminder about racism and the rise of fascism in recent history. Intense emotions such as grief, anger and the *mysterium tremendum*, cannot be cut into a corset or simmered into a stew.

So what about those fashion writers who were sitting in the front row beside the catwalk, scribbling away furiously in their notebooks? While I merely saw a tall woman wearing a beautiful, boldly colorful dress with jutting frills and feathers whose owner would, if she wore it to work, probably have to use the service elevator, and beneath whose voluminous hem a family of midgets could probably take up residence, they no doubt saw art: a process of creation, perhaps a playful allusion or two, a daring inventiveness and so on.

Similarly, when I eat at Alain Passard's avant-garde restaurant in Paris, L'Arpege, I can write paragraph after paragraph about his deconstruction of the classical herb complements, his innovative use of textures and accretive aromatics, the Oriental influences evident in his presentation, and so on. But while I enjoy thinking and writing about haute cuisine (cousin to haute couture) before me, my enjoyment of the food itself is no doubt equal to that of my companion whose conclusion was, quite succinctly: "Wow, yummy." But then I would be 798 words short of the minimum length for my column.

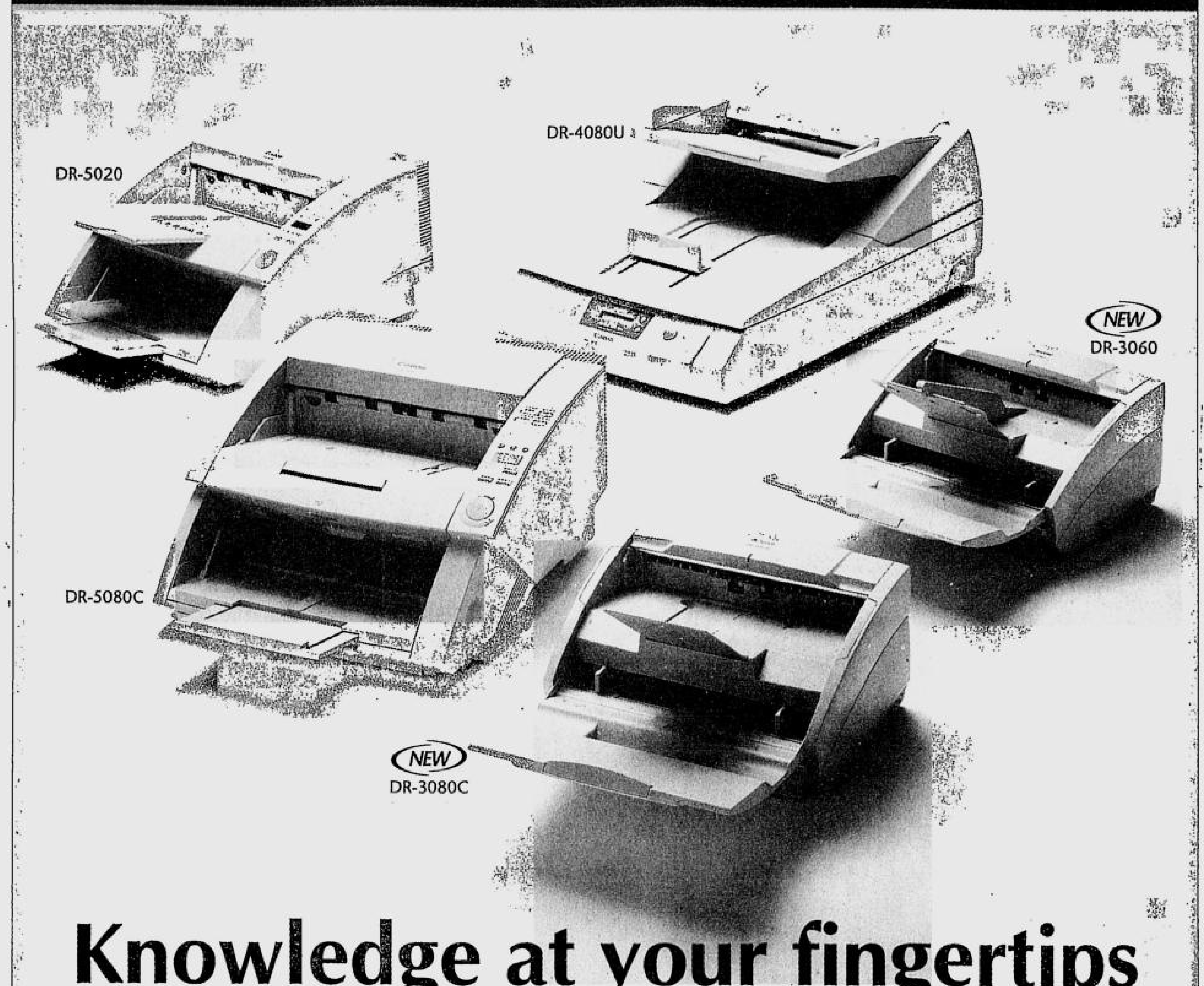
Sublimation

Food, clothing and shelter (interior design is a similar elevation and refinement) are the temporal imperatives for the continuing survival of a single, individual life. But sex is necessary for the continuing survival of life itself: for a tribe, or a community or a people. Unfortunately, beside Freud stands Darwin, and I have resigned myself to the fact that the pleasant task of regeneration will be carried out by those blessed with better genes than mine. And this is why after drooling over the beautiful women and clothing and the fashion show, my friend and I (her excuse was that the slimness of the models depressed her) went off and indulged, comforted and sublimated ourselves with an excellent dinner at Old Manila.

The whole idea of sublimation is a wonderful and useful one, if you decide to believe in it. It might explain why, for instance, beautiful men and women with high cheekbones and disposable income are meeting, matching and copulating, while I feel no inclination to go out and pounce on women in bars. We can therefore conclude that I am sublimating my sexual desires by writing about food; furthermore, in this column, I am meta-sublimating my desires by writing about writing about food. The thought of this achievement leads me, therefore, to the attainment of a mental *jouissance*, the kind which obviates the need for tissue paper. And I'll stop right here, because you and I both know that you can only carry a theory so far until it becomes drivel.

There was a philosopher and a designer who claimed he or she would trade his philosophy and her art, respectively, for a beautiful woman, or the love of a good man. If you remember who they were, please write in to me. Meanwhile, I'll just go and pop into the kitchen for a bit.

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila.com.ph



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Canon

Odyssey to many flavors

(From page C1)

Located at the LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati, Food Odyssey was inaugurated in June. Open from Monday to Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., it has been successful enough to woo employees of the skyscraper and nearby offices and serious food lovers not just for lunch.

"Food Odyssey is market-driven so we always look at their ages and tastes. Food is the primary product but many come here to have fun, hang out, socialize and watch performances on some nights," says Annabella, who is president of Raintree Partners that owns Food Odyssey, Food Park and Marketplace.

The food and hotel network star and her husband Tom, who is Raintree Partners' chair, have managed to seduce the business district of Makati with multicultural dishes that suit every appetite and budget. At this East-West food court, Jollibee, Subway and Dunkin' Donuts keep company with Lola's Kitchen, Flavours X-press, O'Bento, GaiXia by Emer's, Jiaozi, Jamaican Patties, New York Café, City Bites, Castle Bread.

Lola's Kitchen specializes in Filipino food like *kare-kare*, *salpicao*, *longsilog* and *sisig*. Flavours X-press, an offshoot of Flavours and Spices, focuses on Thai specialties. O'Bento serves all kinds of Japanese fare and bento boxes. GaiXia by Emer's is into Chinese food while Jiaozi is into dimsum and dumplings.

New York Café is Food Odyssey's central beverage area that showcases sodas, iced tea, smoothies, beer and liquor. City Bites features snacks such as ballpark nachos, buffalo wings, potato wedges, tacos and chimichangas. Castle Bread offers breads and pastries.

"The restaurants are enough to satisfy the cravings of diners but at the same time, they're not too many to split the market share among the tenants. We don't attempt to do things that are not our core business. If the different kinds of food would come out of only one kitchen, inevitably they'd have the same taste. So we invited Chinese cooks to do Chinese food, the Thai, Thai food, the Japanese, Japanese food," Wisniewski says.

Beyond food

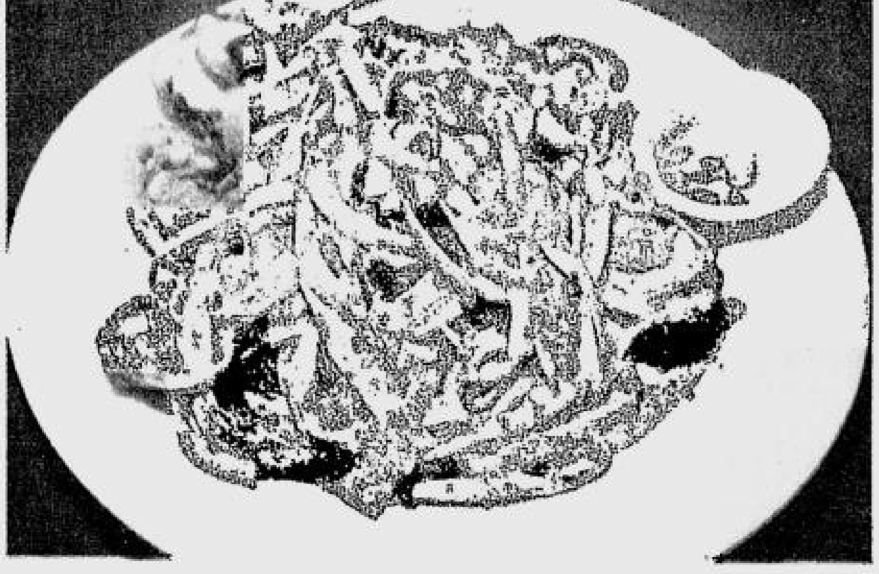
But the appeal of Food Odyssey transcends food. Although it's located on the 11th floor, the inexpensive, easy-going and brightly-lit food court has become a gathering place for what Wisniewski describes as "the young and very social, which means that they rarely eat alone."

A soaring, swooping space with sci-fi charm, Food Odyssey was inspired by the modern and futuristic entertainment centers in San Francisco, USA. And it blends with the dynamic design of LKG Tower.

Visitors are magnetically drawn not only by the variety of food, but the place's edgy sound tracks, lively chatter all around and fun activities as well. Every Wednesday, Food Odyssey hosts "Movie Nights"; Thursday, "Decades (Music from the Past Revisited)"; and Friday, "Band Nights," which features Session Road, Color It Red, Great Divide and Parliament Syndicate. Saturday is Kids' Day, which showcases free art workshops, games and storytelling from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Such activities are held at the spacious and cool roof deck (the only area where smokers can indulge), which has a stage, garden and waterfall. On Oct. 15, 16, 29 and 30, Cosmic Bazaar will display delightful finds perfect for the Yuletide season.

O'BENTO'S Tempura with Tuna Sashimi



FLAVOURS X-PRESS noodles with clams

"We want people to have a relief from the doldrums of work and to forget the heaviness of a corporate environment. At Food Odyssey, organized chaos generating a lot of energy can help de-stress them," says Wisniewski.

Educated guesses

Wisniewski's building binge has been the result of 14 years' experience and exposure to the hotel and restaurant industry. "Our businesses are all educated guesses," she says.

A graduate of hotel administration from Cornell University in New York where she met her husband, Wisniewski says she enjoyed cooking while they were still in the US, but she is not as passionate as her mother, Honorata Fajardo, nor her son Martin, who attended a culinary school in Switzerland.

Her mother used to own and manage fine dining restaurants on Roxas Boulevard and 28 cafeterias in the 1950s and '60s. Her father, Francisco Fajardo, an architect, designed the restaurants.

Her youngest son Martin is helping them in the marketing of Raintree Partners' enterprises together with his elder brother Andrei. The eldest, Michael, works in an information technology company in the US.

"What I enjoy is the creation of concepts. Like when we put up Food Park and Food Odyssey. Some of my staff were saying that there's so much traffic in Makati that people will avoid going there. But for me that's a good chance to bring people to the restaurants if they don't want to go home yet. So I thought of serving alcoholic beverages during happy hour. A stage, a sound system and DJ booth were put up to provide them entertainment. I always see opportunities in crisis."

In 1975, she and Tom formed their own consulting company. When they moved back to San Francisco in 1982, they opened boutique hotels. "Our business ventures became successful so I thought, 'If I'm making a headway in another country, why not do it in the Philippines?' "

Constantly bubbling with innovative ideas, Wiesniewski puts a sophisticated yet homey spin on every endeavor she undertakes. "I don't want a traditional restaurant or hotel. I want something new and to choose a niche that will uplift the standards and create excitement in the market. You have to break barriers. If you're going to run it the same way, it's not going to move forward."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

FROM LEFT, Peachy Almario (marketing director, Raintree Partners), Tom Wisniewski (board chair) and Annabella Wisniewski (president)

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Unique ways of preparing potatoes and burgers

THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center will conduct a One-Day Special cooking lesson, "Burgers and Potatoes Combo," on Oct. 6. Explore the numerous and exciting ways of proper garnishing.

Learn the various ways of preparing different kinds of potatoes and burgers the way experts do it: Burger Dogs, Corny Tuna Burger, Crusted Beef Burgers, Salisbury Steak, Beef Boulette Burgers, Magic Potato Croquettes, Dauphine Potatoes, Italian Buttered Marble Potatoes, Easy Flavored French Fries, Potato Au Gratin plus a special bonus on how to prepare healthful mashed potato. Learn all these for just one Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Or check out other Maya Kitchen One-Day Special Courses like: Baking with Institutional Mixes on Oct. 6, 1:30-5 p.m.; Cooking with Tofu on Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Cake Shop Specialties, Oct. 6, 1:30 p.m. Japanese Cooking will be on Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Seven-Day Ham Curing, Oct. 20, 1:30-5 p.m.; Catering, Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Maya Quick and Easy Gulaman Delights, Oct. 27, 3-5 p.m.

Four Certificate Courses with Hands-On are lined up this month: Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) for Career Cooks, Oct. 9-12 and Oct. 23-26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Basic Baking, Oct. 10-12 and Oct. 24-26, 1:30-5 p.m., Cooking (Basic Cooking); For Messman, Steward and Beginners, Oct. 16-19 or Nov. 6-9, 1:30-5 p.m.; Basic Cake Decoration, Oct. 20 and 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For evening sessions, Maya Kitchen kicks off with Restaurant Operations on Oct. 17 and 18, 5-9 p.m.; Integrated Workshop on Waitering and Bartending, Bakery and Bakeshop Operations, Oct. 17-19, 6-9 p.m.

Visit the Maya Kitchen at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011 local 108, or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific. net.ph.

If it's October, it's time for beer . . .

DINING OUT

ON Oct. 5, San Miguel Beer will launch nationwide the month-long Oktoberfest 2001 titled "Chowtime, Showtime Caravan."

San Miguel Beer drinking season will officially begin with a kick-off party at the Eastwood City, including a food festival at noon showcasing all the great food that goes with beer.

Sports buffs will have basketball and billiard setups to get pumped up with, while hardcore billiards fans will get to meet Efren "Bata" Reyes and the Beer Men, get their autographs and the chance to win premium Bata and Beer Men items with an auction. Partygoers may also check out the SMB Historical Exhibit. And to top it off, there will be a concert that will last till the wee hours of the morning.

SMB will also take Oktoberfest to Cebu City with "Sinugba, Music and Beer Festival," an Oktoberfest foodfest in Iloilo City and a launch in Davao on the same weekend.

Other events include the SMB-88.3 CityLite street party in Ortigas, the SMB-103.5 K-Lite and 99.5 RT street party at the Greenbelt Mall in Makati, and the Mandarin Hotel's two-day celebration on Oct. 19 and 20 with authentic German musicians flown in especially for the event. Butuan, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Bacolod and many more cities will have special parties too so everyone will get their own taste of Oktoberfest.

. . . and German cuisine

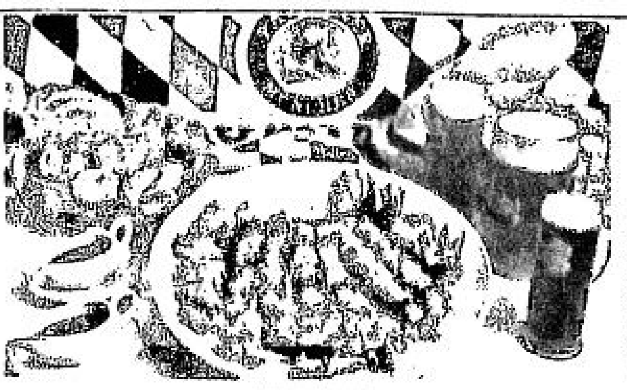
DUSIT HOTEL'S Paulaner Brauhaus celebrates Oktoberfest, a month-long celebration of the best of German beer and food. This 31-day "happy hour" treats customers to a special rate of Paulaner Beer—½ liter mug at P60 and 1 liter mug for only P120. A party of 10 persons also entitles the group to a free pitcher of Paulaner beer. Call 867-3333 local 3341 or 3308.

THE GOLD RANCH serves up genuine German delights until Oct. 16. Feast on the Theresiewiesen Platte, the classic Oktoberfest plate filled with sauerkraut, sausages, smoked porkloin and potatoes in single or twin platters. There's also the Bayrischer Wursteller, a combination of Bavaria's most famous sausages; and Munchner Weisswurst, the famous sausage from Munich. The chicken and steaks lineup include Deftiges Holzfallersteak and Haendl vom Grill. Plus imported German Weis Bier (beer) by the can or drink-all-you-can draft beer from San Miguel. The Gold Ranch is at 822 Pasay Road, Makati City.

INTERCONTINENTAL'S Café Jeepney offers a taste of Germany with a lunch and dinner buffet-style spread of the country's popular dishes and desserts until Oct. 12. Start off with Lentil Soup with Sausages then feast on Kassler Ripchen (Smoked Porkloin with Sauerkraut), Beef Rouladen, Breaded Pork Schnitzel, Leberkäs with Fried Egg, Pichelsteiner Meat and Vegetable Stew, Rhinish Sauerbraten and Fish Fillets in Beer Batter. Desserts like Apple Strudel, Leipziger Tartlettes and Cherry Streusel are also available. Call 815-9711 local 771 or 772.

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Vogue Coffee Shop's "Seoulfood," a gastronomical buffet of Korean cuisine until Oct. 14. Sample their special Golden Fried Dumplings, Stuffed Squid Sausage, Bulgogi with Pear Salad, Fried Baby Octopus and Thi Vermicelli with Chopsuey. Call '526-7001 local 6554.

DINO'S GRILL is celebrating its anniversary on Oct. 6. The restaurant is offering a 10-percent discount on cash basis and a 5-percent on credit card for the whole of October. Four new Dino's combinations and two Japanese combinations will highlight the celebration. Also on the menu are the MGB (*inihaw na manok, gindara at baboy*), MTB (*inihaw na manok, tuna at baboy*), BFP (barbecue and fried prawns), and SFP (steak and fried prawns). Dino's Grill is at 42 Banawe corner N. Roxas Sts., QC. Call 731-4481/4483/0059/4486.



PAULANER barbecue, Paulaner Brauhaus, Dusit Hotel Nikko

Cooking with Reggie

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts at the Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, has announced its classes for October.

Oct. 5—Holiday Entertaining: Carrot Soup, with vegetable charlotte, Grilled Chicken Salad with Melon Relish, Mixed Seafood Risotto with Roasted Tomato, Thyme Roasted Sea Scallops with Sweet Corn Risotto, Spice Crusted Chicken with Mango-Garlic Sauce with Green Pesto Mashed Potatoes, Crisp Whole Fish with Roasted Pepper Sauce and Black Rice, Penine with Roasted Asparagus and Balsamic Butter, Plank Roasted Salmon with Sweet Shallot Marmalade, Grilled Steak with Roasted Garlic and Sour Cream Potatoes, Fried Oysters Worcestershire, Goat Cheesecake with Praline Sauce, Fried Ice Cream.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27, My Gourmet Filipino Christmas Series 2001 "Repeat Classes." On Day 1: Balut Terrine En Croute, Pandan, Lumpia with Candied Walnuts, Grilled Salmon Filipino Style with Seafood Sotanghon in Caviar and Champagne Sauce, Mixed Nut Kare-Kare with Chocolate Bagoong, Pastel de Pollo, Pandan Sago Pudding in Crème Anglaise; Day 2: Nilagang Pavo with Spring Vegetables, Buko Spring Rolls, Duck Adobo with Foie Gras and Home-made Fruit Jam, Roast French Rack of Lamb with Kamias Jelly and Kamias Rice, Mascarpone Barquillos with Caviar; Day 3: Shrimp and Kalabasa Flower Salad, Seafood Molo En Croute, Bulalo Steak Printanier, Grilled Pork with Santol relish, Grilled Lemon Prawns with Dulong Rice and Relish, Gata Leche Plan with Tapioca Christmas Balls; Day 4: *media noche*—Antipasto Filipino (Crostinis of Marinated Quesong Puti, Chicken Livers with Lakatan and Bangus Hate), Gourmet Arroz Caldo, Hamon de Coca-Cola with Sweet Pineapple (glazed with Rolled Pan de Sal, stuffed with Quesong Puti and Sweet Butter), Gourmet Galantina with Sibuyas Tagalog Jelly, Puto-Tricolore with Itallan Cheeses, Cured Meats and Itlog na Maalat.

Oct. 8-10, New Age Roast and Side Dishes. Rack of Pork Chops with Apple-Onion Marmalade served with Cucumber and Pineapple Gelatin Salad, Mexican-Style Roast Pork with Tamales of Cassandra and Sweet Potato, Pepper Crusted Rib-eye Roast with Coriander Relish and Grilled Onions and Roasted Garlic Bread, Ricotta Stuffed Quail with Smoked Bacon and Green Pea Broccoli Purée, Herb Roasted Chicken with Orange Sauce and Green Onion Purée, Bag Baked Sea Bass with Lentil Salad, Rosemary-Honey Lamb Leg with Minted Rice.

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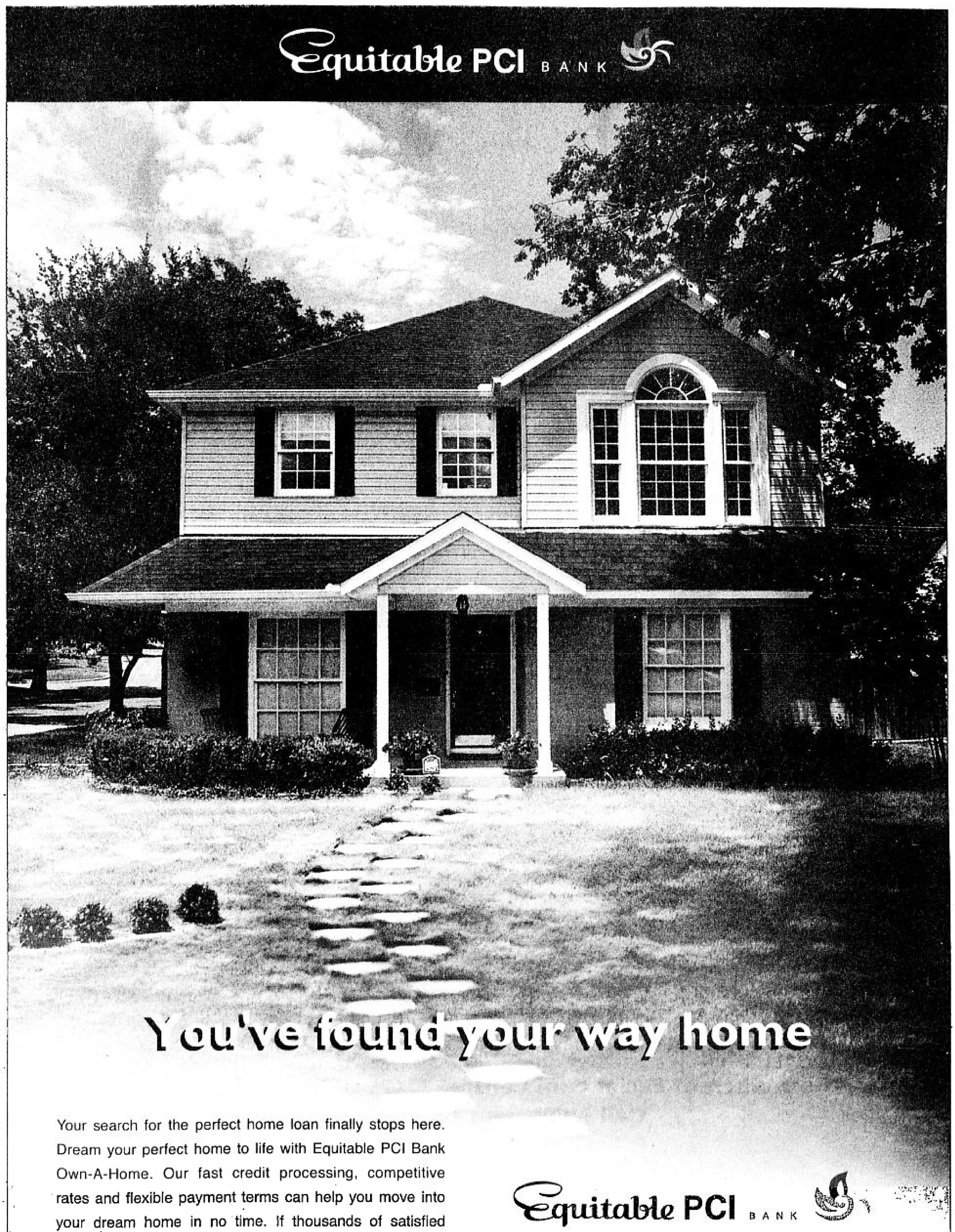

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Skincare should never be confined to the improvement of your physical appearance alone. It must help in bringing out your inner beauty as well. Facial Care Centre believes in this principle. Hence, for years, its professional skin improvement system has been helping women bring out their natural beauty as well as the desirable characteristics each woman should possess. Now, as it nears its third decade here in Manila, Facial Care Centre proudly celebrates another year of unparalleled service.

This year, we were introduced to two new treatments: the **Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment and Oats Counter-Ageing Treatment.** Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment combines natural elements to boost your skin's youthful vitality. It utilizes the therapeutic powers of dill, known in Chinese and Western Medicine as a healing herb, coupled with a new stabilized vitamin C. This powerful combination allows better penetration of health-giving substances into your skin to effectively: neutralize the effects of free radicals, keep the cell structures intact so skin is firm, supple and resilient, lighten the skin by transforming the colored melanin to a colorless pigment, prevent age spots by inhibiting the production of new melanin, and increase collagen synthesis to diminish wrinkle-formation and increase the skin's elasticity. A powersupply of vegetable and vitamin essences, **Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment** is stimulating, anti-oxidizing and anti-wrinkle.

Oats Counter-Ageing Treatment, on the other hand, is a relieving, soothing, multi-vitamin supplier. It has active ingredients that instantly transform your skin to remarkably reverse ageing:

- *Oats Extracts* - an effective exfoliator that helps slough away dead skin cells without damaging the skin's underlying structure, leaving it smooth and glowing. It stabilizes the skin's moisture balance and promotes a soothing therapeutic action.
- *Vitamin A* - helps in the active penetration of ingredients to stimulate proper skin metabolism and aid in healthy cell regeneration, remarkably reducing ageing signs.
- *Vitamin B Complex* - protects important cellular processes including better cellular respiration and normalization of oil gland secretion.
- *Vitamin E* - a biological anti-oxidant that counteracts the damaging effects of free radicals.

Oats Counter-Ageing Treatment turns back the effects of time on your skin and lets you experience a beautiful transformation.

Since its launch on January 2000, **LaserLight** Hair Removal has been making more and more men and women happy with its remarkable results. LaserLight is the most advanced system developed to treat unwanted hair from any part of the body, the most popular areas of which are the underarms, legs, upper lip and bikini line. It works by emitting pulses of light energy that are absorbed by the pigment or melanin in the hair. This energy gently disables the root, preventing it from growing a new hair. FDA-approved for permanent hair reduction, it sets you free from the discomfort and inconvenience of temporary hair removal methods and keeps your unwanted hair gone for good. It has already been proven extremely successful on Asian skin and many clients (professionals, homemakers, celebrities, etc.) attest to its effectiveness.

LaserLight Hair Removal. Suitable for any unwanted hair anywhere on your body.

In its continued efforts to bring its state-of-the-art services nearer its clientele, Facial Care Centre opened two additional branches: one in Congressional, Quezon City and another in San Fernando, Pampanga. The new Centres are both equipped with modern, state-of-the-art facilities. These include: nicer, cozier treatment rooms with piped-in music to indulge your relaxation; as always, private, comfortable consultation rooms; an elegant lounge/reception area and many other tastefully designed features. Fully carpeted and elegantly furnished, the centres exude a luxurious but professional ambiance. All these, of course, come with Facial Care Centre's technologically advanced treatments, professional service and skincare expertise that has made it a trusted name in the beauty and skincare industry across Asia for years. As expansion continues, more and more women can look forward to relaxing their way to beautiful, younger-looking skin.

2001 also marks Facial Care Centre's 19th anniversary here in Manila. That's 19 successful years of Reverse Ageing. To celebrate, Facial Care Centre has chosen to feature some of the women who are able to achieve and maintain great-looking skin through FCC's Reverse Ageing Force - a professional skin improvement system. These are the women who embody the Centre's principle of exuding beauty - inside and out. Women who, together with attaining healthy, younger-looking skin, have also gained confidence, happiness, satisfaction, plus other winning attributes that go with it. 19 years of Reverse Ageing expertise truly make Facial Care Centre an incomparable leader in the beauty and skin improvement industry. This is what real skincare is all about.

To schedule an appointment, you may call the Facial Care Centre branch nearest you. See the print ad for details.

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